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Ogumoro's motion for acquittal denied. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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'Economy can hire more US workers'

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres told the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources that more United States-eligible workers have been hired by local businesses as the CNMI's economy continues to improve after years of decline.

» But Torres says CNMI still doesn't have enough workers

Torres was one of five officials that testified in last week's committee hearing on House Resolution 339 or the CNMI Economic Expansion Act introduced by Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP).

U.S. Department of the Interior-Office of Insular Affairs Acting Assistant Secretary Nikolao Pula, U.S. Government Accountability Office International Affairs and Trade Director David Gootnick, and Island Training Solutions sole proprietor Jim Arenovski joined Torres and Sablan in testifying before the Senate panel.

Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan), House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan), Strategic Economic Development Council representative Alex Sablan, Marianas Visitors Authority board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce, and Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands

See ECONOMY on Page 4

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, third right, and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) join other CNMI officials after debriefing the entire CNMI delegation on what transpired in the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources committee hearing last week in Washington, D.C.

ERWIN ENCINARES

Gold Mantis construction company workers protest in front of the Imperial Pacific Resort construction site in Garapan last Friday.

Construction workers rally anew even as subcontractor says it's providing aid

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» IPI denounces hiring of 'illegal workers'

Employees of a subcontractor building the multimillion-dollar Imperial Pacific Resort once again marched to the Garapan construction site last Friday morning to once again protest their unpaid wages and broken promises.

This time, following the rally, a representative from Gold Mantis Construction Decoration (CNMI), LLC, Robert Gemmill Esq., issued a statement claiming Gold Mantis has been "providing, and is continuing

See WORKERS on Page 4

Boating Safety rescues Sakman crew; tows canoe back to Saipan

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety Boating Safety Section launched on Thursday night its Zodiac boat from Saipan and safely rescued the six crewmen of the Chamorro Sakman after the Guam-bound traditional canoe struggled with large waves and strong currents between Saipan and Tinian.

DPS acting spokesman Sgt. Jason Tarkong said Saipan Boating Safety Section made contact on Friday at 11:50pm with the six passengers and transferred them to the Zodiac rescue boat.

All six were uninjured.

Tarkong said Tinian Boating Safety Section officers also responded and assisted by towing the Sakman canoe back to Smiling Cove Marina on Saipan.

The canoe was docked at Smiling Cove on Friday at 4:09am.

On Thursday at 10:43pm, DPS Central received an emergency call on the Sakman sailing canoe request-

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INSIDE

LOCAL

Ramona L. Jones, CEO of Jones & Guerrero Co. Inc., has been named the 2017 First Hawaiian Bank and Guam Business Magazine Businesswoman of the Year.

PAGE 7

United States sets up missile defense in South Korea
Terminal High Altitude Area Defense
Incoming threat
TFCC THAAD Fire Control and Communications support equipment
Radar
Launcher
Radar detects incoming threat
The target is identified and engaged
Interceptor is fired from truck-mounted launcher

ASIA

President Donald Trump believes China's president has been putting pressure on North Korea as it pursues its missile and nuclear weapons programs.

LOCAL 16

LIFE & STYLE

"The Godfather" cast and director Francis Ford Coppola reunited in a rare reunion at Radio City Music Hall.

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Local

Lino Tenorio out as DOC acting commissioner

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Acting governo Victor B. Hocog issued a memorandum on Friday, removing Lino Tenorio as acting commissioner of the Department of Corrections effective today, Monday.

In a memorandum addressed to all department and activity heads, Hocog designated Georgia Cabrera as acting DOC commissioner.

"Please extend your usual cooperation and understanding to Miss Cabrera as she assumes additional responsibilities," said Hocog in a two-sentence memorandum obtained by *Saipan Tribune*.

Effective last Feb. 17, Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres replaced Cabrera as DOC commissioner and appointed Tenorio as acting DOC commissioner.

Cabrera was then assigned as acting director for civil detainees at DOC.

Tenorio has yet to be confirmed by the Senate as DOC commissioner.

In an interview last February, Tenorio said he would finish the things he left out in March 2009 when he was DOC commissioner. Tenorio said hearing it from the outside and seeing it himself first hand, he has noticed that there are a lot of things that his predecessors deviated from the actual DOC standing operating procedures.

He said he is going to fix the things that need fixing and run the department the way it supposed to be run.

Cabrera was then assigned as acting director for civil detainees at DOC.

Torres appointed Tenorio as new DOC commissioner effective last Feb. 17.

Tenorio used to serve as deputy commissioner for operations at the Department of Public Safety. Then-governor Benigno R. Fitial appointed Tenorio as DOC commissioner in November 2006.

Fitial, however, terminated Tenorio in March 2009 when the latter announced he was running for mayor of Saipan as an independent and not under the Covenant Party, among other reasons.

TASTE OF THE
MARIANAS
MAY 2017
INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL AND BEER GARDEN
GARAPAN FISHING BASE
MAY 6, 13, & 20, 2017 (Saturdays) 6:00pm-10:00pm
MAY 27, 2017 (Last Saturday) 6:00pm-11:00pm
Saturday, May 6, 2017
6:00 p.m. 180 Revolution
6:30 p.m. Opening Ceremony
6:40 p.m. Northern Star
7:00 p.m K-Pop
7:30 p.m Glushko's Academy of Performing Arts
8:00 p.m. Simiyan Manaina-ta
8:30 p.m. Tiul Belau Dancers
9:00 p.m. Refaluwasch Warriors
10:00 p.m. Closing
Food Concessionaires
D'Elegance
Fiesta Resort & Spa
Furusato Restaurant
Herman's Modern Bakery
Hyatt Regency Saipan
Kanoa Resort
Mariana Resort & Spa
Matty's BBQ
Sierra's Pearl Shakes
Sweet Escapes
Thai House Restaurant
Tony Roma's/Capricciosa
Tropical Chill
Beer Garden Vendors
Pacific Trading Company
Marianas Pacific Distributors Inc.
Saipan Brewing Company
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"Hafa Adai Tirow" Spirit Island Wear Fridays
Every Friday in May is Hafa Adai Tirow Spirit Island Wear day! Show your island pride and culture by wearing island attire or local traditional wear. Post your photos on Facebook at "My Marianas (Marianas Visitors Authority)."
Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden
This highly anticipated weekly celebration will be held every Saturday in May at Garapan Fishing Base from 6-10 p.m. The event will feature delicious local and international cuisine sold by 13 vendors. Enjoy the talent of local and international performers with live entertainment all evening. The event will feature nightly competitions, as well as trivia questions aimed at promoting tourism awareness.
"My Marianas" Community Outreach Presentation
Get up-to-date on the latest industry trends and upcoming tourism events during this picturesque slideshow on Saturday evenings at the Taste of the Marianas.
On-the-Street Interviews
MVA turns the spotlight on you as random community members are given an opportunity to share their views in local newspapers.
Radio Tourism Trivia
Call in with the correct answer for your chance to win tokens for the Taste of the Marianas and Tourism Month T-shirts. Tourism Trivia will air regularly throughout the month on Power 99 (97.5 FM), KZMI (103.9 FM) and KKMP (1440 AM and 92.1 FM), KWAW (100.3 FM).
Roadside Waving at CNMI schools in celebration of May Tourism Month
May 2, 2017
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DFEMS personnel rappel to rescue diver who nearly drowned at the Grotto

DEREK GERSONDE

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services search and rescue personnel rappelled from a cliff to pull out a Korean woman who nearly drowned while diving with her husband and an instructor at the Grotto area in Marpi last Saturday.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A dive instructor managed to revive a Korean female diver who nearly drowned at the Grotto in Marpi last Saturday.

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services search and rescue personnel rappelled off the cliff and pulled out the woman. She and her husband, who was also so weak, were both transported by ambulance to the Commonwealth Health Center emergency room.

DFEMS spokesman Derek Gersonde said yesterday that on Saturday at 12:04pm, they received a call from the Department of Public Safety 911 for a possible drowning at the Grotto.

DFEMS medics and rescue unit from Garapan and Susupe Fire Stations responded to the scene.

Gersonde said investigation showed that a dive instructor from ATTY DIVE company had taken out a Korean couple for diving.

On the second dive, the woman was having issues with her mask. The dive instructor and the couple ascended to the surface outside the Grotto, where she became unconscious.

The instructor and the husband pulled the woman onto a tabletop. The instructor then started to perform CPR on her.

After five minutes of CPR, the woman became conscious. The instructor left the couple as he called 911.

DFEMS search and rescue personnel rappelled off the cliff and found on the rocks the 35-year-old woman, who was so weak and complained of chest pains.

Rescuers pulled her up and carried her out. The 42-year-old husband was also so weak but managed to climb out on his own.

Ambulance then transported the couple to CHC.

Ogumoro's motion for acquittal denied

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The defense started on Friday calling in witnesses for former Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio T. Ogumoro, who is on trial on corruption charges.

This developed as Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo, who is presiding over the jury trial, announced on Friday morning his ruling that denied defense counsel Mark B. Hanson's motion for Ogumoro's acquittal.

Hanson called to the witness stand Police Officer Raymond Pangelinan, who was then part of DPS staff that reported to then-DPS deputy commissioner Ogumoro in 2012.

Pangelinan said he was in charge of the DPS vehicle fleet and fuel.

Pangelinan agreed with Hanson during direct examination that DPS vehicles were going in and out at repair shops at that time because of very poor conditions.

The officer said at that time, DPS was under austerity measures.

Pangelinan said at least 30 vehicles were going in and out at four auto repair shops in 2012.

Pangelinan said among those vehicles was a 1995 Toyota Tercel, which was used by two police officers.

The 1995 Toyota Tercel, which was sold for $50 to Herman M. Manglona three days after it was repaired for $2,500, was among the DPS property that caused the filing of criminal charges against Ogumoro and Manglona.

Pangelinan said the Tercel, which was assigned to then-police officer Martin Kapileo, broke down in September 2012 in front of a bar.

Kapileo told Pangelinan that the vehicle could not reverse and had an overheating problem.

Pangelinan identified his signature in the auto shop's September 2012 invoice in the amount of $2,500 for the repair of the Tercel.

Pangelinan also identified a computer that the government presented in court as among the evidence in the case as the same one that he dropped from Aniceto Ogumoro's office over at Ambrosio Ogumoro's True North Bar in Garapan.

Aniceto and Ambrosio Ogumoro are brothers. Aniceto was the DPS police director in 2012. He is currently the assistant chief for police operations.

Pangelinan said it was daytime when he delivered the computer.

During assistant attorney general Matthew Baisley's cross-examination, Pangelinan identified his signature in many invoices for the repair of DPS vehicles, including for the Tercel.

Pangelinan agreed with Baisley that he would not agree to put the Tercel at the repair shop and pay for $2,500 if he believes that the vehicle is "done" or beyond repairable.

Pangelinan also agreed with the prosecutor that Manuel Vitug, the manager of ELS Auto Repair Shop that fixed the Tercel, "is a reasonable guy."

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom on Friday, the defense called another witness, Aniceto Ogumoro.

On Thursday, the government rested its case. Govendo dismissed the charges against Herman Manglona following the prosecution's motion to dismiss.

Assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas is assisting Baisley at the trial.

The trial will resume today, Monday.

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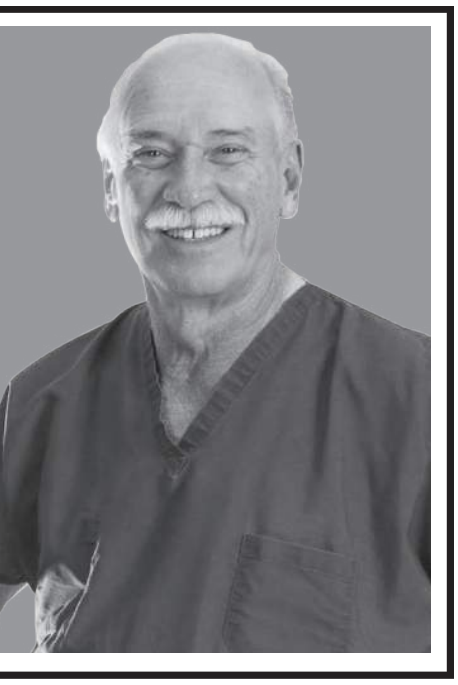

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WORKERS

From Page 1

to provide, humanitarian aid to as many as 91 individuals who we understand were, until recently, working on the Imperial Pacific hotel and casino project," despite the numerous protests.

"Gold Mantis has been working with both CNMI and U.S. government authorities and a local charitable organization (Karidat Social Services) with respect to the logistics of providing this humanitarian aid, which includes food, water, and lodging," wrote Gemmill in an email.

According to leader of the protest group, Wang Feng Kai, Gold Mantis has been doing otherwise. Wang claims that Gold Mantis still has yet to pay them their wages for early 2017 as well as provide food and proper lodging for the group.

Wang also took a swipe at the CNMI Department of Labor. According to Wang, a member of the CNMI DOL told them that the protests were not as powerful as DOL would like it to be, a statement Labor Secretary Edith DeLeon Guerrero denies.

"The statements made are obviously not true and if it is then I would like for the protester that you approached to identify the employee(s) of the CNMI DOL that could have engaged in such unbecoming behavior," said DeLeon Guerrero after *Saipan Tribune* approached the secretary for clarification.

According to Wang, he asked for names but was not given any.

Wang mentioned that somebody appearing to be from the U.S. DOL contacted him through the popular Chinese messaging application WeChat. The message asked him for a picture of a representative of Gold Mantis named Wei Yuan in order to bar him from leaving the CNMI.

However, when approached by *Saipan Tribune* for clarification, DeLeon Guerrero denied that the CNMI DOL had anything to do with the WeChat account. According to Wang, the account asked for pictures of Wei, but when CNMI DOL visited the last known location of Gold Mantis on Capital Hill, adjacent to former Coffee Care Restaurant, DOL discovered "a locked and what appears to be an abandoned office."

"The finding of an abandoned office will not stop the CNMI DOL from conducting a thorough and detailed investigation," said an unfazed DeLeon Guerrero in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

"This is an active investigation that the CNMI DOL is working on that will bring resolution to the workers concerns and for their return back home to their families with a must that their concerns be fully addressed by their employer prior to their departure," she added.

IPI 'strongly condemns' hiring of illegal workers, nonpayment of salary

A statement from Imperial Pacific (CNMI) International LLC condemns the ongoing illegal worker situation and the wage problems of said workers.

"IPI publicly denounces in strongest terms the harboring and the use of illegal workers by some of its contractors and subcontractors, and the utter disregard on the rights and well-being of these affected individuals hired for the Imperial Pacific Resort construction project."

According to IPI, it has been consistent in requiring vendors, contractors, and subcontractors to follow both federal and local laws, a requirement that the company claims is reflected in "clear and unconditional terms in all contracts.

"IPI joins the general public in disavowing this form of illegal practice, which continues to cause undue harm to the Commonwealth and exposes the CNMI to potential negative economic repercussions."

IPI said it would continue to collaborate and partner with both federal and local authorities in the resolution of these issues and the "safe and immediate repatriation of affected individuals."

BOATING

From Page 1

ing for assistance.

Tarkong said the canoe was taking on water as a result of large rogue waves and strong current approximately 4 miles west of Agingan Point between Saipan and Tinian.

The Sakman, led by master traditional navigator Tony Piailug, arrived on Saipan shores after a four-day voyage from Guam last April 21, making it the first voyage from Guam in 200 years using the traditional Chamorro canoe.

The Sakman crewmembers were welcomed last April 23 during a ceremony at the last day of the annual Flame Tree Arts Festival at the Garapan Fishing Base.

As of yesterday afternoon, the Sakman arrived on Rota.

ECONOMY

From Page 1

president Gloria Cavanagh were also present in the hearing.

Torres said HR 339 is an important legislation that would provide short-term relief to the CNMI's needs in retaining employees that are critical, especially in the healthcare sector. "The economy of the CNMI today, while not completely rebounded from its years of depression, is showcasing a different reality."

"Today's economy has the ability to hire and retain U.S.-eligible workers, to support rapidly increasing wages—both those which have risen by federal law and those that have increased organically through growing labor demands—and to grow its economy in a competitive and globalized market."

He added that the resurgence of the Commonwealth's economy had been remarkable and could not be understated despite facing growth constraints coming from a small island nation like the CNMI.

Torres said they have been proud because as the CNMI's economy grows so is the number of U.S.-eligible workers that have been hired, which increased by almost 19 percent since a 15-year low in 2012.

"The CNMI today has more domestic workers in the labor force than any other time since 2004 and, in line with the goals of Public Law 110-229, today the CNMI can boast the highest ratio of domestic to foreign workers since the beginning of our modern economy in 1990," said Torres.

He added that there's still much work to be done. "There are still those in our economy without a job, and if I could place each of these individuals into a vacant position I would, but the realities of the situation on the ground are not that simple."

"Education, skill sets, certifications, health, and drug abuse still present barriers in much the same way it does throughout the U.S. national force."

Torres said that is why he would continue to make sure every U.S. eligible worker in the CNMI gets hired. "In looking at the best examples from across our nation, I see one solution to increase U.S. citizen employment that has proven itself time and time again to be successful—grow the economy."

The CNMI economy's potential to further grow, however, is limited. "The truth is the CNMI does not have the enough workers in all of the various fields and specialties to sustain the economic growth we need to avoid falling back into the sever economic depression we witnessed only a few short years ago."

"What filled the unmet demand for workers in the wide array of occupations in the CNMI and has allowed the economy to grow, and to increase jobs for U.S.-eligible workers has been the Commonwealth-Only Transitional Worker (CW1) program."

Components of HR 339

HR 339, if it becomes a law, would increase the numerical limit of CW permits issued by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services from 12,998 to 15,000 for FY 2017. The cap was reached twice early in FY 2016 and 2017.

It would also increase the vocational education fee that employers pay for each CW1 permit applied from $150 to $200. The money collected is used to fund the training of the local workforce that would replace foreign laborers.

HR 339 also aims to permanently prohibit CW1 permits issued to construction workers, except for those that had already been issued before Oct. 1, 2015.

The bill, introduced by Delegate Sablan as HR 5888 in the 114th U.S. Congress, also wanted construction firms to use other U.S. work visas for their laborers.

Senators' reactions

Committee chair Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) and ranking member Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Washington) expressed their views before allowing the witnesses to give their respective testimonies.

Murkowski said it was great news to see the economic growth and investment interest the CNMI as experienced after the 2008 global economic crisis. "It is great to see this economy rebound. And I think we have had enough discussion in this committee to recognize there have been some very tough years, years where the economy has struggled greatly."

She, however, said the CNMI would have not been in this situation if the transition program was taken seriously when the Consolidated Natural Resources Act was enacted in 2008.

"We have not seen the progress we had hoped in moving away from foreign labor during the first five years, which led Congress to enact the hard 2019 sunset date for the transition program."

Murkowski added it is not clear how sustainable the investments of the resort and casino projects are and the capacity of ensuring the legality of activity. "The recent arrest of construction company representatives for employing and harboring Chinese workers who entered the CNMI on parolee/tourist visas is probably the most explicit and current example of these concerns."

"These are all questions that we need a better understanding as we look at this legislation [HR 339], which would provide temporary relief to roughly 2,000 foreign workers in the CNMI, and then more importantly, as we look at the CNMI's future post going forward."

Cantwell, on the other hand, mentioned the CNMI's past issues involving labor abuses and human trafficking in the garment industry where a hearing was also conducted by then committee chair Sen. Frank Murkowski (R-Alaska), who is the father of the current head.

She added that the recent events of workers' protests, and raids and arrests made by the Federal Bureau of Investigation are similar to those saw in the 1990s. "Today we are hearing again from workers who say they are forced to work 80 hours per week."

"Owed back wages, have been exposed to harsh and physical working conditions, and are being kept in deplorable conditions. And over the past month, construction workers have protested repeatedly to demand reform."

Cantwell said the federal government has the duty to ensure all fundamental rights of every individual in the CNMI are protected being one of the territories of the U.S. "Too many people have been hurt and have lost their lives, when Congress had refused to step in and impose the basic immigration and labor standards."

"Foreign and domestic workers alike are being exploited by their employers who care only for their financial gain. And all of this is happening as Sen. Frank Murkowski said years ago, 'under a U.S. flag.'"

She said it is their duty being members of Congress, to step in. "Do what is necessary to make sure that our American values are there while providing the Mariana Islands with the tools of economic success."

"There is still much work to be done. We take seriously the concerns of the Northern Mariana Islands. We will not return to the 1990s and the 2000s."

Other statements

Pula said the Trump administration is fully supporting the intent of HR 339 even if it is only providing temporary relief for some employees that would be affected by the CW1 numerical limit in the current fiscal year.

"The administration believes that elements of both HR 5888 and HR 339 could be combined to provide a more viable long-term labor program. We look forward with the bill sponsor and this Committee to identify the provisions that will address the CNMI's labor needs and benefit the overall CNMI economy."

He said a prompt passage of HR 339, in the absence of a long-term solution, would somehow prevent a health emergency. "The CNMI is facing repatriation of majority of its nurses in June, July, and September; these 125 CW visa holders work on all three populated islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota."

"We are concerned that without legislative relief, many hospital functions will have to be terminated, creating a public health emergency. A similar concern has been raised for employees of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp."

Arenovski, for his part, has been hiring and training local workers for his own business, and recently certifying others so they could find jobs in other companies. He is operating Island Training Solutions, which is the regional licensee for the American Hotel and Lodging Educational Institute that offers a globally recognized hospitality curriculum.

He shared various success stories of individuals that he had helped through the years, U.S.-eligible workers hired by companies therefore increasing the number of the domestic labor force.

Arenovski said Congress would miss the opportunity in helping the CNMI by not passing HR 339. "The point I want to make is that with a limited pool of unemployed people, each person we train and help to get a job is going to be a story. We have to encourage. We have to build confidence and help people up again when the fall. And it all takes time."

"But I think we are making good progress and HR 339, by putting more training funds into the system, will help that progress or maybe speed it along. Our [delegate] and governor have opened opportunities for both businesses and local U.S. workers. They both know the importance of getting the labor situation in the CNMI right."

MHS discovers human remains

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas High School has stumbled upon the remnants of what is believed to be a portion of a skeleton and some ancient artifacts alongside it during construction of the school's new cafeteria.

The most populous high school in the CNMI discovered human remains of what unofficial reports refer to as "a portion of an arm" with ancient artifacts nearby. The digging occurred right next to the MHS Gymnasium in order to lay out the foundation for the new MHS cafeteria. Excavation was only about 3-5 feet.

Public School System associate commissioner for administrative services Glenn Muña told the media last Wednesday that construction has been ceased in order to find out more about the remains.

Thornburgh

"The Historic Preservations Office issued a stop order to get archaeologists to come in and do some research to determine the next step," said Muña.

Although Muña did not clarify whether the cafeteria would be moved as a result of the unexpected discovery, he informed the media that archaeological research must first be done to proceed with the construction, a postponement that would take at least 30 days. According to Muña, a request for quotation, or RFQ, is now being finalized for the hiring of an archaeologist to study the remnants.

"Once we get the archaeologists on board and we get the green light from HPO to proceed with the project then we would continue," said Muña.

"We have a handful [of architects]; maybe two or three archaeologists on island or maybe in Guam, so we are seeking quotations from them so we can determine who the lowest bidder is," he added.

The postponement of construction work on the cafeteria would depend solely on "how soon an archaeologist comes in and how soon the HPO would give us a green light [to continue]," said Muña.

According to PSS federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh, the area must be surveyed to determine whether there are additional remnants nearby.

"It's a little bit expensive for us… We'll see what happens," he said.

On the subject of relocating the cafeteria, Thornburgh is hopeful that is not going to happen as he said the current site was the "perfect location for a cafeteria."

"There [aren't that many] open locations in MHS that make sense. We just have to wait and see," said Thornburgh as he clarified the decision to relocate the cafeteria was out of PSS' hands.

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2017 KIA RIO LX retail price $16,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 5.4% APR for 60 monthly payments of $259.07 or $119.57 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $15,544.20.
2017 KIA SOUL LX retail price $18,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 5.4% APR for 60 monthly payments of $289.56 or $133.64 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $17,373.60.

Women's Health Month

Your health at every age.

YOU'RE IN YOUR 20S! TAKE THESE STEPS FOR BETTER HEALTH

Do you know what you can do in your 20s to live a healthier life? Use this list!
Pledge to follow one or all of the steps below.
Then get the conversation started at your next well woman visit with this list.

To live a healthy life, I will:

GENERAL HEALTH

- Get an annual well-woman visit
- Get my blood pressure checked
- Eat healthy
- Maintain a healthy weight
- Get at least 30 minutes of physical activity most days
- Quit smoking or don't start
- Limit alcohol use
- Get a seasonal flu shot
- Ask what other shots I need
- Talk to my doctor about any domestic and interpersonal violence

REPRODUCTIVE AND SEXUAL HEALTH

- Choose the right birth control if I have sex
- Talk to my doctor about whether I plan to have children in the next year
- Talk to my doctor about when I need a Pap test (21 and older)
- Talk to my doctor about my risk for sexually transmitted infections and need for screening
- Get an HIV test at least once in my lifetime
- Get tested for chlamydia and gonorrhea
- Get the HPV vaccine if I have not yet received the series of shots (26 and younger)

DISEASES AND CONDITIONS

- Talk to my doctor about getting my cholesterol checked if I have a family history of heart problems
- Talk to my doctor about my family history of cancers
- Talk to my doctor about getting screened for hepatitis B and hepatitis C
- Talk to my doctor about stress, depression, and other mental health concerns

If you are pregnant, prenatal care can also be a well-woman visit. There are also certain tests during pregnancy to check you and your baby's health. Visit our Pregnancy section to learn what you can do before, during, and after pregnancy to give your baby a healthy start to life and to take care of yourself, too.

Womenshealth.gov
Office on Women's Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

For more information, please contact:
Division of Public Health Services - Maternal and Child Health Bureau
Tel #: (670) 664-8703 • Fax #: (670) 236-8700

"This advertisement has been brought to you by the CNMI Maternal and Child Health Bureau through funds by the US Department of Health & Human Services."

Tinian DLNR staff arrested for allegedly selling 'ice'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An equipment operator of Tinian Department of Lands and Natural Resources was arrested on Friday morning for allegedly engaging in the sale of methamphetamine or "ice" on the island.

Tinian police served an arrest warrant on the 53-year-old Victor San Nicolas Shai at the DLNR office on charges of trafficking and illegal possession of controlled substance.

At a hearing on Friday late afternoon, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a $100,000 cash bail and set the preliminary hearing for May 28 at 9am.

» Meth can be bought on Tinian for as low as $10

Assistant public defender Nancy Dominski was appointed as counsel for Shai. Assistant attorney general Jonathan Wilberscheid appeared for the government.

Tinian Police Detective Peter H. Palacios Jr. stated in his report that on Oct. 1, 2016 a confidential informant disclosed that he has been buying "ice" from Shai ranging from $10 to $50.

Palacios said during the "controlled buy operation" the confidential informant met with Shai in the parking lot of a poker establishment that night.

Shai and the confidential informant walked to the backside of the establishment, where the defendant allegedly handed the $50 worth of "ice."

Salvation Army lacks funding to carry out feeding programs

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kbautista1222@gmail.com
REPORTER

The Salvation Army NMI Chapter is currently in a troublesome situation because of lack of funding.

The Salvation Army established the island's only soup kitchen that offers meals to the needy and also established a mobile feeding program in the Commonwealth.

The mobile feeding program reaches out to many citizens of the Commonwealth who are homeless, are living below poverty level, and people who are still getting back on their feet as a result of Typhoon Soudelor.

Gillespie

According to the NMI chapter's ministry leader Wayne Gillespie, there has been a dilemma with the funding to carry out the mobile feeding program.

Gillespie told *Saipan Tribune* that the NMI chapter has three feeding points in their mobile feeding schedule.

The feeding points now include a feeding point in Chalan Kanoa, a feeding point in the Kagman area, and a feeding point in Koblerville.

According to Gillespie, the mobile feeding program also strives to reach out to families who are still struggling from the aftermath of Typhoon Soudelor and currently still have no transportation to make it to the feeding spots.

Aside from the increase in number of feeding sites, Gillespie said that the NMI chapter has also increased the number of feeding days and has resulted in a huge number of meals to give out. "We feed an average of 2,025 hundred in a month," said Gillespie.

Gillespie said the need has gotten so large but the NMI chapter does not have the funds to accommodate the need.

He could not stress enough that the soup kitchen and the feeding program is in desperate need of help.

"We are in a lot of financial trouble in the soup kitchen and we are in a very desperate situation…it is not merely bad, it is desperate," said Gillespie.

According to Gillespie the soup kitchen has been reaching out to various businesses in the Commonwealth and various organizations.

"We are appealing to local businesses and organizations to support us financially," said Gillespie.

According to Gillespie, the NMI chapter is in desperate need of cash funding to pay off utilities to keep the soup kitchen and the mobile feeding program open.

Funding is also needed for the overall maintenance of the mobile vehicle used for the outreach feeding program.

Gillespie encourages businesses, organizations, and individuals who are interested in salvaging the soup kitchen and the outreach-feeding program, to contact Gillespie to discuss ways to sponsor the program. Interested sponsors may contact Gillespie at 483-0885.

ESA Foundation Scholarship Program scholarship application deadline today

The 2017 ESA Foundation Scholarship Program is available for women and minority students who are enrolled or enrolling in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited four-year college or university in the United States, and pursuing degrees leading to careers in computer and video game arts.

Students can get more information through the ESA Foundation Scholarship Program 2017 website.

The program provides a stipend of $100,000. The scholarship deadline is today, May 1, 2017. ***(PR)***

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Jones named 2017 Businesswoman of the Year

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ramona L. Jones was named 2017 Businesswoman of the Year at the Businesswoman of the Year gala last Saturday, April 29, at the Hyatt Regency Guam.

TUMON, Guam—Ramona L. Jones, CEO of Jones & Guerrero Co. Inc., was presented the Maga'håga award and named the 2017 First Hawaiian Bank and Guam Business Magazine Businesswoman of the Year at the Businesswoman of the Year gala last Saturday, April 29, at the Hyatt Regency Guam.

Jones was selected from seven nominees in this year's program, which recognizes businesswomen who have made significant contributions to their industries and have demonstrated a strong commitment to their community. Her photo is featured on the cover of Guam Business Magazine's May-June issue, which was released at the gala.

Jones leads the management teams of the various subsidiaries of the company including the KFC and Taco Bell franchises in Saipan, the Town House Furniture and Appliances retail stores in Guam and, as of last year, Saipan and its construction, real estate development and rental property enterprises.

In the past year, J&G was appointed International Distributor of the Year by one of its key brands, successfully negotiated and leased a property to a Hollywood firm and moved its logistics center.

Jones is a graduate of St. John's School in Guam and received a bachelor's in international business and finance with a certificate from the Great Books Program at the St. Ignatius Institute from the University of San Francisco in 1996. Jones previously worked in Washington, D.C. as a special adviser for economic policy in the Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs and in the White House as deputy associate director in the executive office of the president.

Jones is a board member of Catholic Social Service and through J&G supports independent research at Duke University as well as the Duke University Children's Hospital through an endowment. Locally the company supports the Guam Girl Scouts, the Guam Chapter of the American Red Cross, the Guam Cancer Society, the Guam Chamber of Commerce and the Guam Women's Chamber of Commerce, among others.

Her husband is Juan Carlos Benitez, and they have two children.

Proceeds from the gala will fund scholarships for students pursuing business and related degrees at the University of Guam, Guam Community College and Northern Marianas College.

Jones joins the previous Businesswoman of the Year Maga'håga award recipients, which are as follows: Sophia Chu Wigsten, general manager of Hyatt Regency Guam (2016); Joann G. Camacho, director of market development of DFS Guam (2015); Shirley Ann T. Sablan, executive vice president and general manager of Pacifica Insurance Underwriters Inc. (2014); F. Marie Calvo-Monge, chief operating officer and executive producer of Pacific Telestations (2013); Mary P. Rhodes, president of the Guam Hotel & Restaurant Association and president of MARQ Consulting Services (2012); Joyce Q. Crisostomo, executive director of Cars Plus and president of Payless Car Rental (2011); Anna Wang Kao, founder and president of Genghis Khan Furniture Co. (2010); Lorraine S. Okada, president of Okada Managing Consulting Services (2009); Julienne Rose Perez Duenas, physical therapist, owner and clinical director of Sports, Orthopedic and Active Rehabilitation Inc. (2008); Christine Won Pat Baleto, master franchise and store owner, Pacific Froots LLC (2007); and Katherine C. Sgro, executive vice president and chairwoman of the board for Pay-Less Markets Inc. (2006).

For more information, contact Joy White, assistant editor of Guam Business Magazine, at (671) 649-0883 ext. 125 or assist_editor@glimpsesofguam.com, or Barbie Jane Agahan, assistant advertising manager of First Hawaiian Bank, at (671) 475-7908 or bagahan@fhb.com. ***(PR)***

Air Force to conduct training at Farallon de Medinilla

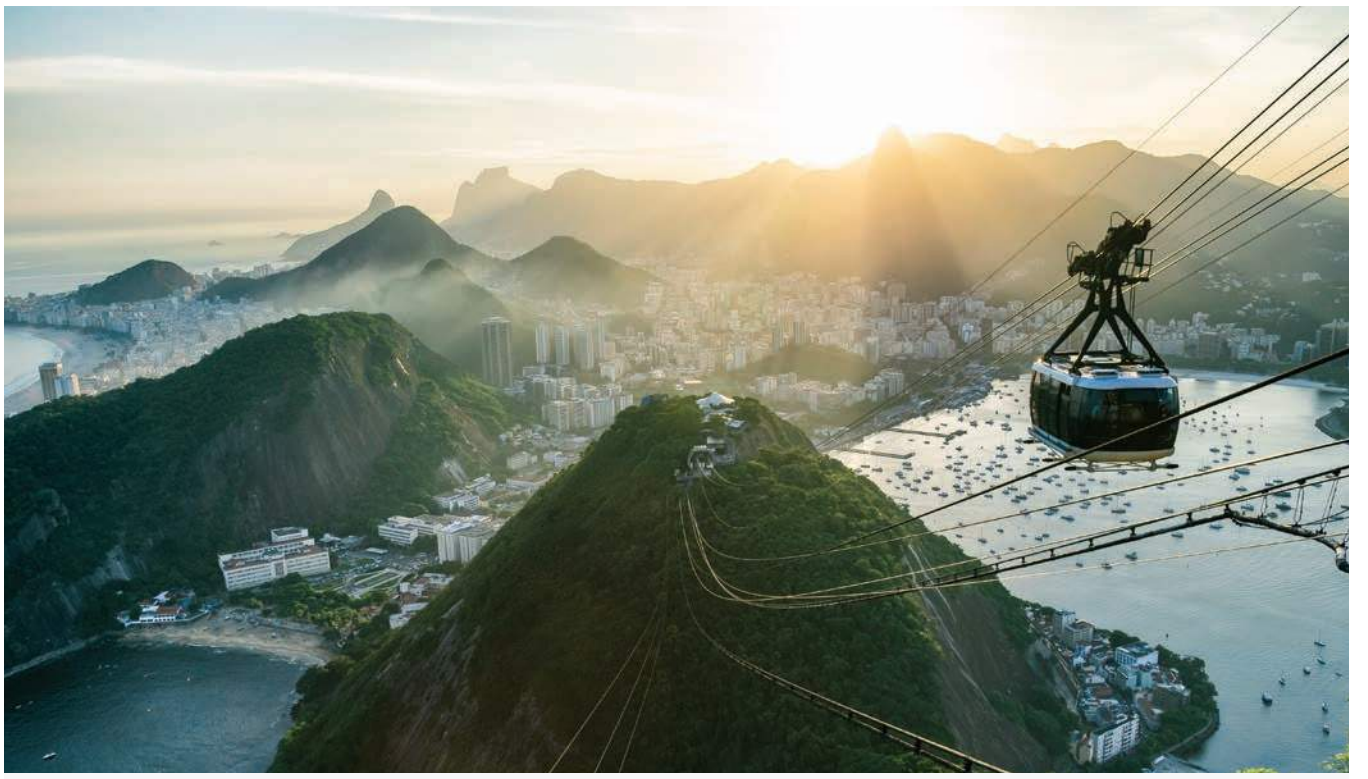
ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- May 1 from 10am to 11:30am
- May 2 from 9:30am to 6pm
- May 3 and 4 from 2pm to 6pm
- May 5 from 8am to 12:30pm

The general public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear of the areas during the dates and times indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 12-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides frequent access that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon, located in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, provide sufficient room to conduct the many training profiles required to support aircrew combat readiness requirements.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055/3209. ***(PR)***



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2 Subject to credit approval. Apply for the United MileagePlus credit card by 6/30/17 and, if approved, receive 5,000 bonus miles at account opening and 20,000 bonus miles if you spend $1,000 in purchases within the first 3 months after your account is opened. The Annual Percentage Rate (APR) for Purchases is a variable rate of 16.74% as of 5/01/17. The intro fixed APR for balance transfers is 2.99% for the first eight billing cycles following the opening of your account for balance transfers made within 30 days of account opening. After that, the variable rate will apply. The fixed Cash Advance APR is 18.00%. The fixed Penalty APR is 18.00% and may be applied if you make a late payment. The Minimum Interest Charge will be no less than $1.00. The Foreign Transaction Fee is 3% of the U.S. dollar amount of any Purchase or Cash Advance made in a foreign currency. The ATM Cash Advance Fee and the Over-the-Counter Cash Advance Fee are $5 or 5% of the transaction amount, whichever is greater, and the Balance Transfer Fee and Convenience Check Fee are $5 or 3% of the transaction amount, whichever is greater. $0 introductory annual fee for the first year after account opening; thereafter, the annual fee is $60. Additional limitations, terms and conditions apply. See the United MileagePlus Credit Card Agreement for more information.

CNMI DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
AMERICA'S SBDC CNMI
CDA Commonwealth Development Authority

FREE Small Business Development Workshops

THE ABC'S OF CREDIT

Wednesday, May 10th 2017

11:00am—12pm

Location: CDA Board Room

Presented by: Rose Sumor, Bank of Hawaii Vice President, Branch Manager, CNMI Branch

We use it to buy homes and cars, amongst other things, or as a convenient cash-alternative. But, do you really know what "credit" is? What does your credit report tell your creditors, even potential employers, and why does it matter? In this seminar, you'll learn the answers to those questions, as well as how to ensure that you build or maintain a good credit score. You'll also learn how to get your credit lines back under your control, or, if that's too overwhelming, where to find help. While every credit situation is unique, The ABC's of Credit will provide you with a foundation of knowledge so that you can take control of one of your most important financial assets – your credit worthiness.

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May proclaimed as Tourism Month

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Acting governor Victor B. Hocog joins Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher Concepcion and other tourism stakeholders after signing a proclamation designating May 2017 as CNMI Tourism Month last Thursday at the Governor's Office conference room on Capitol Hill.

Acting governor Victor B. Hocog signed a proclamation Thursday designating May 2017 as CNMI Tourism Month as the islands have been experiencing a boom in tourism and setting new records to date.

To increase recognition of the CNMI, the Marianas Visitors Authority adopted a new brand name for Saipan, Tinian, Rota and the Northern Marianas to be collectively called as "The Marianas" while using the motto " Tourism is Everybody's Business" in recognition of the benefits of tourism.

The Marianas tourism industry was propelled by Japanese nationals as World War II memorial visitors in the 1970s. Today, the composition of visitors to the islands' shores is diverse.

A survey in 2016 showed that 41 percent of visitors came from China, followed by Koreans at 40 percent, the Japanese at 12 percent, and the rest from other countries.

In the same year, 501,498 visitors came to The Marianas contributing an estimated $450 million in direct impact and $675 million in indirect impact to the economy and an estimated $101 million in taxes.

Hotel occupancy continues to soar and reach record high levels. Early this year, the MVA attracted the prestigious Ironman brand, an international triathlon event were athletes from different countries competed creating another tourism mileage for The Marianas.

As tourism grows so are the laws on immigration. The improvement of immigration processing time at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport to upgrade existing accommodations and funding for quality improvement throughout the islands are of immediate concern.

The growth of tourism in The Marianas has created economic prosperity, international trade, cross cultural understanding, and a good quality of life for the people.

Meanwhile, the CNMI will not only give significance to the influx of visitors because as the MVA motto "Tourism is Everybody's Business" suggests, the responsibility of keeping and maintaining the beauty and tranquility of the islands still rests upon the people and communities around The Marianas and that is the purpose of May 2017 CNMI Tourism Month, is to unite everyone—residents and visitors—to actively celebrate beauty of The Marianas. ***(Bea Cabrera)***

COMMONWEAL TH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE OFFICE, DR-4235-MP
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Caller Box 10007
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel.: (670) 664-2411/4
Fax: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION FOR BID
ITB17-GOV-134 Division of Agriculture
Kagman Facility Repairs
FEMA DR-4235-MP P A PW 32

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Public Assistance Program are soliciting sealed bids for the repair of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources Division of Agriculture Kagman Facility located in Kagman, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available April 24, 2017, at the Public Assistance Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. A $100.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment be present when obtaining a project package. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, currently in effect, and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference and site visit for this project on May 15, 2017, at 9:00am ChST at the Kagman Agriculture Station in Kagman, Saipan. Questions concerning this project shall be directed to Patrick C. Guerrero in writing on or before May 10,2017, to the Public Assistance Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, by email to: patrickguerrero.pa@gmail.com, or fax (670) 664-2408. All responses to inquiries will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked *ITB17-GOV-134 Division of Agriculture Kagman Facility Repairs*. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan no later than 9:00 a.m. ChST May 26, 2017. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice ofIntent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 9:00 a.m. ChST May 26, 2017, must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail toprocurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than May 26, 2017, and the bid documents must be received no later than June 9,2017. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan at *9:00 a.m. ChST June 12, 2017*. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be open at *9:00 a.m. ChST May 26, 2017.*

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's "F r bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:
a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only:
2) Cash
3) US Government Securities
4) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
5) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
6) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by 120 calendar days, the contract time and will be accessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Governor's Authorized Representative
Virginia C. Villagomez

Herman S. Sablan, Director
Director of Procurement & Supply

Antonio L. Borja, Chairman
Patricia H. Aguon, Vice Chairwoman
Jesusa C. Atalig, Secretary
Bruce C. Blanton, Treasurer
Jovita SN. Paulino, Board Member

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
TINIAN MUNICIPAL SCHOLARSHIP BOARD
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
PO Box 520059 • San Jose Village • Tinian, MP 96952
Phone (670) 433-2200 • Fax (670) 433-1819
Email: tinianscholarship@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Meeting on Wednesday, May 03, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. at the Northern Marianas College, Tinian campus, building B (room E) in San Jose Village, Tinian.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes
April 12, 2017

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS[1]

III. NEW BUSINESS
1. Resignation of Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board Treasurer

IV. MISCELLANEOUS MATTER

V. SCHEDULE OF NEXT BOARD MEETING

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION[2]

VII. ADJOURNMENT

/S/Antonio L. Borja
Chairman[1]

[1]We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments on the day of the meeting.

[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC section 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

[3]Individuals with special needs requiring special accommodations, please contact the TMSB office at least 48 hours prior to schedule meeting for assistance.

ROBERT TENORIO TORRES
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM,	)	Civil Action No. 16-0100 (R)
Plaintiff,	)	NOTICE OF HEARING ON PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR DEFAULT JUDGEMENT
vs.	)	
MURPHY P. REYES,	)	
Defendant	)	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on May 9, 2017, at 1:30 p.m., a hearing will be held before Judge Joseph N. Camacho on Plaintiff's Motion for Default Judgement in the above-captioned matter, at the Superior Court in Rota, for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 24th day of February, 2017.

/s/ CLERK OF COURT/DEPUTY CLERK

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL.: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION,	:	CIVIL ACTION NO.: 12-0227
Plaintiff,	:	
-v-	:	
MANUEL CH. SANTOS AND ANA RITA SANTOS, aka ANA RITA PALACIOS CABRERA	:	
Defendants	:	

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on November 8, 2013, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot no. 011 G 637, situated in Kagman III, Phase II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 867 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Survey's official Cadastral Plat no. 011 G 18, dated December 3, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 93-4286, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, June 2, 2017, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 20th day of April, 2017:

MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Hocog vetoes bill earmarking funds for Tinian

Acting governor Victor B. Hocog had vetoed House Local Bill 20-8, D1 that aims to appropriate funds to the Second Senatorial District under Public Law 18-30 or the Tourism Entertainment and Destination Enhancement Act of 2013.

PL 18-30 provides additional gaming entertainment for tourists by amending the definition of gambling device to exclude electronic gaming machines. Former representative Antonio P. Sablan introduced the bill.

Hocog, in a letter to Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation chair Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), said while he understands the funds would help the Tinian community there is no funding available.

"While I understand the bill appropriates funds for several public events for the Tinian community and provides for subsistence allowances for qualified patients for dialysis, cancer, multiple sclerosis, and other illnesses, there is currently no funding from e-gaming fees is received by the Department of Finance.

"I respectfully advice the delegation that it is not feasible to appropriate funds for public services when there is no money in the account. The better approach would be for the delegation to recall the bill in its current form until such time that funding from e-gaming fees is received by the [DoF]."

Hocog said he vetoed the bill in its entirety due to lack of funding from the e-gaming fee account. "While I'm exercising my constitutional authority, I want to make it clear that both the administration and Legislature believe in providing for our dialysis, cancer, and critically ill patients with subsistence allowance and care they rightfully need."

"I ask the delegation go back into the legislative process in order to effectively achieve the intent of this appropriation bill in a manner consistent with the timely collection of e-gaming fees."

"Due consideration must be made in future legislation to ensure that funding is readily available for appropriation to properly provide for our patients and for community events that serve a public purpose," Hocog added.

Rep. Edwin P. Aldan (R-Tinian) introduced HLB 20-8, D1 on Feb. 21 and was transmitted to the delegation for action on March 1. Appropriating $85,657 of funds allotted to the Second Senatorial District is the purpose of the local bill.

The fund would have allocated $65,657 to fund subsistence allowances for qualified patients for dialysis, cancer, multiple sclerosis, debilitating epilepsy seizure disorder, dermatomyositis, arrhythmia, hemophiliac, and post cerebral vascular accident patients from Tinian.

The Tinian Little League and Tinian Premier Football Club would have received $5,000 each while the Office of the Mayor of Tinian was allotted $10,000 for the use of expenses by Department of Public Safety-Tinian in sending their cadets to the Police Academy.

A portion of the $10,000 would have also funded the Chamorro Language competition in Guam, the San Jose and San Isidro Fiesta expenses, and Department of Fire and Emergency Management Services-Tinian's operations. ***(Jon Perez)***

2017 WOMEN'S HEALTH MONTH: "YOUR HEALTH AT EVERY AGE"
MAY 2017
SUNDAY
MONDAY
TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
FRIDAY
SATURDAY
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Maternal & Child Health Bureau
01 WHM Roadside Waving Pinatang Park, Rota 3:30pm - 5pm
02 21 Day Fix Workout @ JKPL 4pm - 4:30pm
03 Teen Health Focus Groups 9am - 1pm
04
05
06
WOMEN'S HEALTH FAIR, ROTA HEALTH CENTER
TEEN HEALTH WEEK
07
08
09 21 Day Fix Workout @ JKPL 4pm - 4:30pm
10
11 Coffee & Bagels Kammer, Tinian 8am
12
13 360 Mobile Clinic Outreach Marianas Business Plaza 8am - 12noon
20'S WEEK PRECONCEPTION HEALTH
14 Mother's Day WHM Mass
15
16 Cooking Demo @ HanNam Market 5pm - 7pm
21 Day Fix Workout @ JKPL 4pm - 4:30pm
17 Isa Powder Run National Prevention Week Amphitheater, Tinian 5pm
18
19 Cooking Demo @ Kagman Market 5pm - 7pm
20
30'S WEEK HEALTHY EATING & NUTRITION
21
22
23 21 Day Fix Workout @ JKPL 4pm - 4:30pm
24
25
26
27 WHM Balloon Fun Run Walk & Roll Filcom Pavillion 6am - 10am
40'S WEEK PHYSICAL ACTIVITY
28
29 Zumba w/ Manamko Manamko Center 9am - 10am
30 Dance w/ Manamko 9am - 10am Manamko Center
21 Day Fix Workout @ JKPL 4pm - 4:30pm
31 WHM RoadsideWaving Pinatang Park, Rota 3:30pm - 5pm
50'S AND BEYOND
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Opinion

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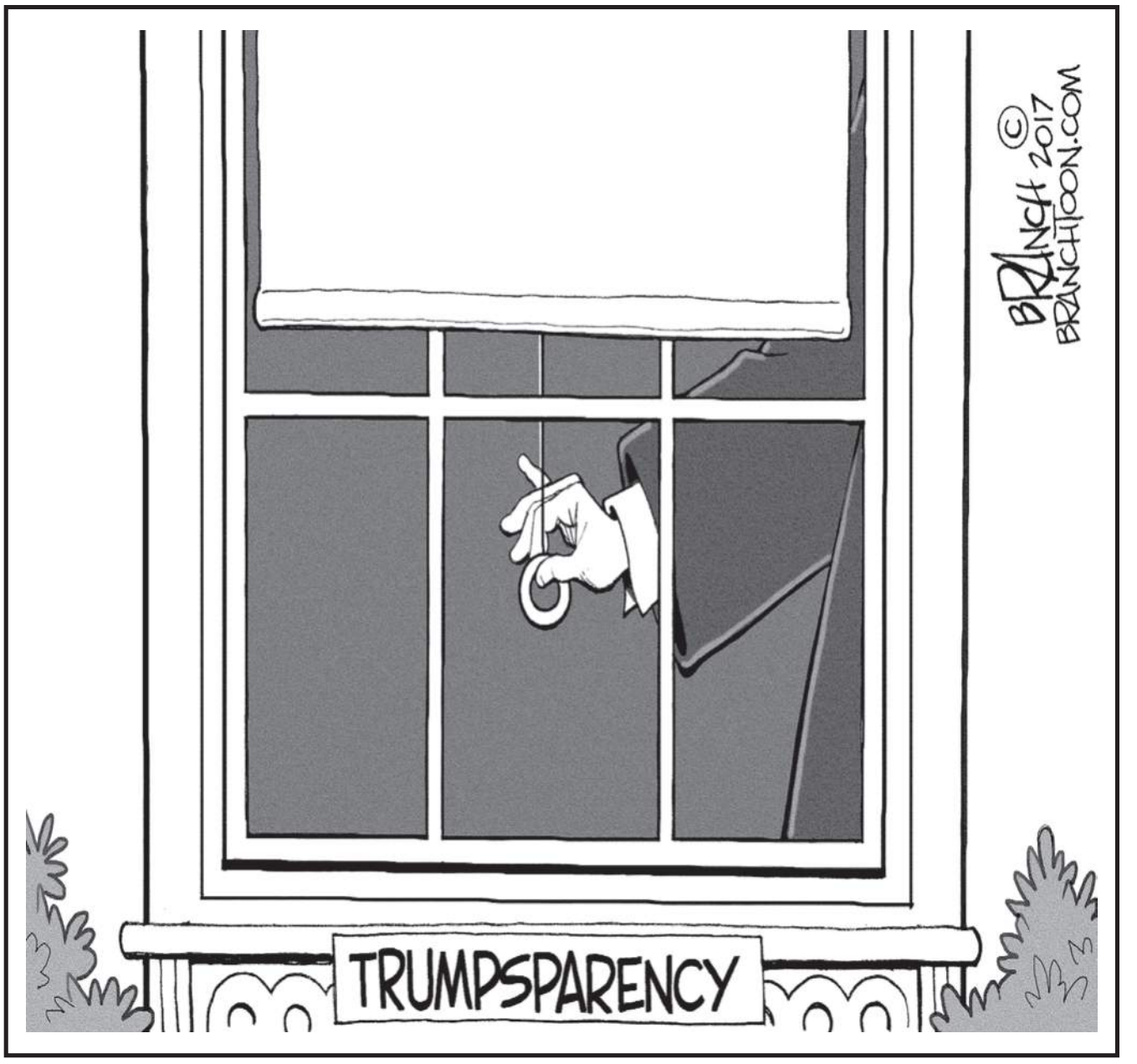

EDITORIAL

Leave the national monuments alone

More than a century ago, to prevent the degradation of open natural spaces and the pillaging of ruins and prehistoric sites, Congress adopted the Antiquities Act, which gives the president the authority and flexibility to unilaterally protect historically or geologically significant federal lands from exploitation. Four months later, President Roosevelt used the act to establish the Devil's Tower National Monument in Wyoming, the first of 152 such set-asides. All but three presidents since then have created national monuments under the act to protect federal lands from development, mining or other landscape-altering activities.

Enter President Trump. On Wednesday, he ordered the Interior secretary, who oversees national monuments, to review two decades of designations larger than 100,000 acres (more than two dozen monuments) and, if he decides it's merited, propose legislation or administrative steps to modify the proclamations. The move dovetails with long-running efforts by some Western politicians to transfer federal lands to the states under the unpersuasive argument that states know best how to manage land within their borders, an argument that Trump seemed to endorse in his public comments when he signed the executive order.

Focusing strictly on the Obama administration, Trump described the designation of monuments as a "massive federal land grab" and an "egregious abuse of federal power" and said his order would "give that power back to the states and the people, where it belongs." But the monuments were carved out of existing federal land that has been under Washington's control since the nation's westward expansion — and which predates the states themselves. And the states have little interest in protecting the land: They want to be able to open it for extractive industries, which fits in with Trump's desire to dig, drill and burn more fossil fuels with blithe disregard for the environment.

The monuments were carved out of existing federal land that has been under Washington's control since the nation's westward expansion.

This is contrary to public interest. No one has offered a convincing argument that there is a problem in need of a solution or that the previously declared monuments were poorly chosen. Historically, in fact, Congress often has converted some presidentially selected monuments into national parks, which receive an even higher level of protection. They include the Grand Canyon and the Grand Tetons and, in California, Death Valley and Mt. Lassen. The trigger for Trump's review was President Obama's designation last year of the Bears Ears National Monument in Utah, a stunningly picturesque region that state political figures wanted to open to oil and gas drillers and potash mining companies. But the Interior Department reviews will stretch back to Grand Staircase-Escalante, also in Utah, designated a national monument by President Clinton.

It's probably too much to hope that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke will report back to Trump that none of the

See LEAVE on Next Page

How to fix airline travel without overspending

By MICHAEL SARGENT
THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Jokes about airports practically date back to the days of the Wright brothers. But the problems with our nation's centers of air travel seem to have become particularly acute lately and, in light of the recent United Airlines passenger-dragging debacle, are no laughing matter.

Sure, President Donald Trump is overstating the matter when he calls U.S. airports "obsolete" and even "third-world." (American airports move far more people than those of any other country and do so safely.) But something needs to be done.

After all, not a single U.S. airport is ranked within the world's top 25, and congestion and delays are a significant problem for the nation's most vital hubs. That's unacceptable.

The question is how to fix it. The answer, in the minds of many lawmakers, is funneling more taxpayer money to airports, perhaps including billions in taxpayer grants that could be included in the Trump administration's forthcoming infrastructure plan.

But there's a much better way to invest in airports — one that does not require new federal spending.

A superior alternative would be to decrease the cumbersome federal management of airports and unleash them to operate as independent businesses.

Currently, the Federal Aviation Administration has a heavy hand in funding and regulating airports. Federal airport funding diverts billions of flyers' tax dollars away from the airports they use most to those most flyers will never see.

Worse, federal grants come with regulations that put a stranglehold on airports through provisions that severely restrict how they can raise and spend their own revenues. These restrictions on revenues force airports to rely on federally approved sources of cash and crush airline competition, innovation and self-sufficiency.

Instead of continuing to funnel money into this broken system, the better — and cheaper — solution is to get the federal government off airports' backs.

One bipartisan proposal that would begin this process is the Investing in America: Rebuilding America's Airport Infrastructure Act, sponsored by Reps. Thomas Massie, R-Ky., and Peter DeFazio, D-Ore. The bill would empower airports to raise their own funds for airport improvements by lifting the cap on passenger facility charges, a local airport user fee that is currently price-controlled by Congress.

Since Congress last set the maximum facility charge at $4.50 per passenger in 2000, passenger facility charges have lost much of their purchasing power. Lifting that cap would adequately allow airports to charge their own customers for funding in place of relying on cumbersome federal grants.

In fact, the bill would reduce federal spending by $400 million, a necessary step to ensure the local charge would replace current federal funding for larger airports instead of simply adding on to it. This is a budget-friendly reform that would give airports much greater latitude to control their finances, including efforts to lure more airline competition to choice-starved facilities.

Although greater changes are still needed — including addressing federal aviation taxes — the DeFazio-Massie bill is a promising start to localizing airport funding and leading airports to self-sufficiency.

Even more encouraging, the bill acknowledges that the nation's airport infrastructure is too important to rely exclusively on centralized planning. Airports and flyers, not bureaucrats in Washington, should be in control of funding our nation's vital aviation infrastructure.

Michael Sargent is a policy analyst for transportation and infrastructure in the Roe Institute for Economic Policy Studies at The Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington, D.C., 20002; Website: www.heritage.org. Information about Heritage's funding may be found at http://www.heritage.org/about/reports.cfm

French voters who are suffering may look for scapegoats

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

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The final vote for the next French president, on May 7, will not only be critical for all of Europe but will have a major impact on the United States.

Despite their country's political and cultural differences from America, the French are going through an election upheaval that is amazingly similar to the convulsion that produced Donald Trump. The country is split between the winners from an open, globalized society and the losers who feel abandoned by traditional politicians.

On Sunday, in a first-round ballot with a field of 11 candidates, voters rejected mainstream parties of left and right, along with a host of independent candidates. The top two choices for a runoff were a political novice, Emmanuel Macron, who heads a new centrist party and supports an open society, closely followed by the populist, immigration-bashing nationalist, Marine Le Pen.

The polls show Macron ahead by 20 percent, yet — in these strange times — the outcome is far from certain. Should Le Pen pull an upset, we could see the collapse of NATO and the European Union and a further surge of populism on the continent.

In conversations this week with the current French ambassador to Washington, Gerard Araud, and a former French ambassador Pierre Vimont, I heard serious concerns about the likely results.

"I would bet yes for Macron," says Araud, who was in Philly speaking for the French-American Chamber of Commerce and at Perry World House at the University of Pennsylvania. But then the ambassador listed his caveats.

Le Pen appeals to those who have been hurt by free trade agreements or automation.

"It's not by chance that Hillary Clinton lost in the (U.S.) rust belt," he says, "and Marine Le Pen has done well in the French rust belt." Moreover, says Araud, the problem goes well beyond the issue of trade. "Ahead of us we have more automation, so how do we retrain a 45-year-old truck driver? We are facing a real problem that may worsen.

"As in America, the result in Europe is that we increasingly have dual societies, where 50 percent are quite comfortable and confident, and the other part of the population is suffering, with their income stagnating and dropping. They are looking for scapegoats, like immigrants."

That is the audience to whom Le Pen appeals, with a "make France great again" campaign that calls for France to withdraw from NATO, the European Union, and the euro. She rails against trade pacts — and against immigrants, especially Muslims. However, unlike Trump (whom she initially praised, and who waxed enthusiastic about her), Le Pen's economic program is almost socialist in nature, aimed to woo economic "losers."

This new political climate has helped Le Pen overcome the long-standing French distaste for the neo-fascist origins of her National Front Party. She has disavowed the party's anti-Semitic founder, her father, who advanced to the second round in 2002 presidential elections but then lost 80 percent to 20 percent.

Araud fears that Le Pen could win "because Macron is an unknown quantity and he will need people from the left and right to vote for him." That poses a problem which may look familiar to Clinton's supporters. In the first round of voting, third place with 20 percent of the ballots went to a far leftist with a certain resemblance to Bernie Sanders; many French Berniacs, including young activists, say they will never vote Macron, while some may switch to Le Pen.

Some voters for the fourth-place candidate, from France's conservative Republicans Party, may also vote Le Pen. And many disgruntled voters may stay home.

So the future of Europe depends on this: whether the 39-year-old Macron, a banker whose only political experience was a brief stint as economics minister for the current socialist government, can convince enough French voters that he offers new answers for a divided country.

"He is a 'new man' because he comes out of nowhere with a modernized centrist party," says Vimont. "He represents those who have had enough of switching from right-wing to left-wing parties and want someone who didn't play the usual game."

However, Vimont notes, when you get to Macron's program, "it sounds like what both (mainstream) parties have tried before with no success. And he represents the half of society which is elite and open to the world, as opposed to the half who can't stand the elites who have been in power."

Indeed, when I watched the baby-faced Macron during France's first presidential debate, I found him underwhelming. His neither-right-nor-left stance reminded me of a latter-day Bill Clinton or Tony Blair without the charm or the specifics. It's unclear whether he has any workable ideas for reforming European institutions or migration or creating jobs for globalization's losers.

"Will he understand he has to take on these concerns?" asks Vimont, who thinks Macron will win, but narrowly. If he does and his new party gains enough seats in June parliamentary elections to act, Macron could provide a template for how to combat populism in Europe.

If he fails, the populist Le Pen may come roaring back in the next French presidential election five years from now.

LEAVE

From Page 10

monuments should be altered or withdrawn, and that the Antiquities Act is a valuable tool for a president. Fortunately, the president's authority to undo the designations of his predecessors is in doubt. The Antiquities Act grants the president the authority to designate monuments but says nothing about the right to change, amend or revoke designations (although Congress can do so through legislation). Some presidents have reduced the size of monuments, but those changes went unchallenged in court. Environmental groups have promised a legal fight should Trump seek to alter the designations.

Zinke and Trump both said the review would give the public a chance to weigh in. But it already has. The Bears Ears designation, for instance, came after more than seven years of broad public debate and after a rival land-use plan by Utah's congressional delegation failed to gain traction.

The Antiquities Act was passed after Americans, following the lead of John Muir and other naturalists, recognized that there was more to the vast expanses of the West than land to be tilled, forests to be felled and ores to be mined. Roosevelt wrote in 1913 that it is "vandalism … to destroy or to permit the destruction of what is beautiful in nature, whether it be a cliff, a forest, or a species of mammal or bird. Here in the United States we turn our rivers and streams into sewers and dumping-grounds, we pollute the air, we destroy forests, and exterminate fishes, birds and mammals — not to speak of vulgarizing charming landscapes with hideous advertisements. But at last it looks as if our people were awakening."

The people need to remain awake, and they need to fight to ensure that neither the Trump administration nor the fossil fuel-friendly congressional leadership succeeds in this assault on our shared national heritage.

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No room for pro-lifers in Democratic Party

By CHRISTINE M. FLOWERS
Philadelphia Daily News

Christine M. Flowers is a lawyer and columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News. *Readers may send her email at cflowers1961@gmail.com.*

Tom Perez just said pro-life Americans are not welcome in the Democratic Party. He suggested they should surrender their U.S. passports, because they don't belong in this country, either. Of course, he didn't put it in exactly those terms. Politicians never speak clearly, out of the fear that someone might actually understand them. But the message resounded like a clarion bell. Here is what the chairman of the Democratic National Committee said this week about people like me:

"Every Democrat, like every American, should support a woman's right to make her own choices about her body and her health. That is not negotiable, and should not change city by city or state by state."

It's no surprise that pro-life Democrats have something in common with Moses: a familiarity with wandering in deserts. This has been the case since unforgiving amazons such as Cecile Richards placed their Mahnolo-Blahniked feet on the throat of the party and demanded full and uncompromised fealty from the membership. So far, they've gotten it, even though there have been notable renegades like Bob Casey Sr., a proud Pennsylvanian who wasn't afraid to speak truth to power, and suffered the repercussions.

The shock comes from the fact that not only does the DNC chairman presume to evict 23 percent of the family from the homestead (because about one-quarter of the registered Democrats believe abortion should be illegal in virtually all circumstances). That is his right as the official voice of the party, even though it is a foolish thing to do. The real horror of his words is their breadth and depth, reaching as they do to delegitimize American citizens who disagree with his position on abortion.

To be fair, some Democrats have decided to push back somewhat against the truly terrifying statement of their mouthpiece. On "Meet the Press," Nancy Pelosi said that "of course" a politician could be a Democrat and pro-life, and then promptly choked and had to be resuscitated on air. Sen. Bernie Sanders continued to show independence and guts and endorsed a pro-life Democratic mayoral candidate in Omaha, Neb.

And then there is Sen. Bob Casey Jr., son of that great profile in courage, Gov. Bob Casey Sr. Sen. Casey has always described himself as "pro-life," but has a less than convincing record in opposing abortion. I reached out to his office, asking for a reaction to Perez's edict and this was the initial response I received: "Senator Casey is a pro-life Democrat — he supports women and children before and after birth. Senator Casey has a long record of advocating for women in the United States Senate, including providing access to contraception and funding for family planning services. He voted to confirm both Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan to the Supreme Court while opposing the confirmation of Justice Gorsuch. In the Senate, he passed into law the Pregnancy Assistance Fund which provides aid to pregnant women across the country. And Senator Casey has fought back against far right attempts to defund Planned Parenthood and cut family planning funding through Title X. Senator Casey has also been a tireless fighter for Medicaid and the WIC program which help women and children."

OK, I thought, he opposed Gorsuch, supports Planned Parenthood and doesn't like the "far right." He's also done a lot for the children who had the good luck to make it through the birth canal. Fair enough. But he still hadn't told me whether I, a pro-life American, was in danger of being deported. So I persisted, and this is what I got:

"Senator Casey believes the Democratic Party has always been a diverse and inclusive party and wants it to remain that way."

Good for him. He needs to tell that to his party chairman.

In fact, he needs to tell that to all of the people out there who think it's fine to ridicule those of us who are publicly and passionately opposed to abortion on demand. In particular, he might want to send a note to Samantha Pinto, a woman from South Philadelphia who was turning 25 and decided to celebrate by holding a party where she bashed in the head of our other Pennsylvania senator, Pat Toomey. Now, of course, Samantha didn't really attack the senator. She just ordered up a piñata designed to replicate his head, and then whacked at it, as did her other party guests. The event was detailed on Billy Penn, which bills itself as "a mobile-first platform designed to connect citizens to relevant news and information about Philadelphia, and to drive civic engagement via affinity groups and events."

That sounds nice. But I wondered how writing an article about an event where a bunch of party gals started hacking away at a replica of a senator was "relevant news," much less how it drove "civic engagement." And then it dawned on me: abortion. Pinto must have ordered up the Toomey piñata because she hates the Republican senator's position on abortion.

I contacted Billy Penn editor Chris Krewson and wanted to know whether he'd reached out to Toomey's office for some balance. He responded in an email: "As Sen. Toomey is a public figure, we did not reach out to his office any more than we would not have reached out to Hillary Clinton's "camp" if we decided to write about Philadelphians wearing "Hillary for Prison" t-shirts, for instance."

I get the public figure part. But wearing a T-shirt with a marginally offensive slogan is, I would argue, different from bashing a replica of a senator's head because he believes in the sanctity of life.

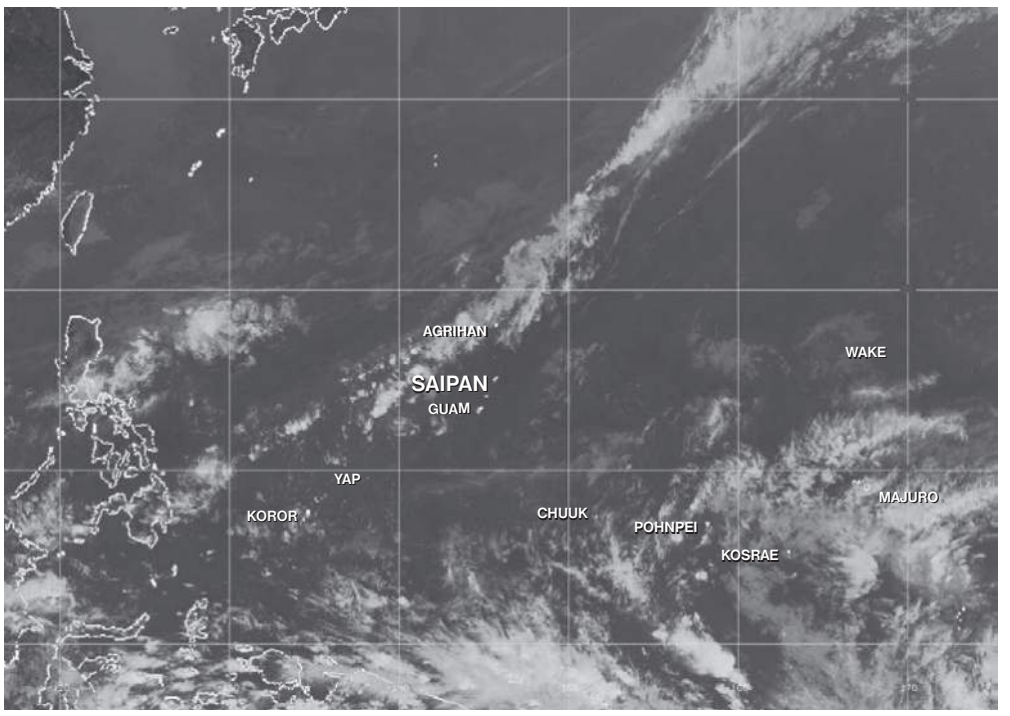
But that's just me. I'm a pro-life American, and I think people who defend the civil and human rights of the unborn deserve respect, not ridicule or harassment. If Perez and his fellow travelers had their way, I'd be expressing that opinion in a foreign language.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
A few thunderstorms in the morning. Mostly sunny skies during the afternoon.	Mostly sunny skies.	Scattered showers and thunderstorms.	Isolated thunderstorms in the morning, then skies turning partly cloudy late.	Scattered thunderstorms in the morning, then partly cloudy late.
▲86° ▼79°	▲86° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°	▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:55 AM, SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The basic forecast of partly cloudy skies with isolated showers is unchanged for the time being, as no significant weather systems are expected to affect the region for the next week or so. Marine conditions will also be stable, with only a slight rise in seas Monday night and the next several days beyond that.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87 | 80 °F
Palau	Thunderstorms	85 | 78 °F
Yap	Thunderstorms	85 | 72 °F
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	85 | 80 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85 | 79 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85 | 80 °F
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85 | 81 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain	62 | 53 °F
Beijing	Sunny	81 | 56 °F
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	81 | 75 °F
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	79 | 70 °F
London	Rain	61 | 47 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	80 | 61 °F
Manila	Cloudy	93 | 81 °F
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	63 | 49 °F
Miami	Partly Cloudy	84 | 75 °F
New York	Mostly Cloudy	74 | 63 °F
Osaka	Sunny	77 | 60 °F
Paris	Cloudy	62 | 43 °F
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	78 | 49 °F
Rome	Sunny	69 | 52 °F
Salem	Cloudy	62 | 44 °F
San Francisco	Sunny	73 | 58 °F
Seoul	Sunny	81 | 52 °F
Tokyo	Sunny	79 | 51 °F
Washington, DC	Cloudy	83 | 63 °F

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- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
5:39 AM	LOW TIDE	1.1
10:24 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.84
5:52 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.33
-	-	-

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Monday	5:53 AM	6:34 PM
Tuesday	5:53 AM	6:34 PM
Wednesday	5:52 AM	6:35 PM
Thursday	5:52 AM	6:35 PM
Friday	5:52 AM	6:35 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Monday	10:17 AM	11:29 PM	-
Tuesday	11:16 AM	-	-
Wednesday	-	12:23 AM	12:13 PM
Thursday	-	1:12 AM	1:09 PM
Friday	-	1:58 AM	2:01 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 25, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:35am	6:25am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily
ZE582	4:25pm	8:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5

SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)

7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:50am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:30am	Daily via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 3, 4, 6
HX077	2:15am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6391/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily
ZE581	10:15am	3:35pm	Daily
7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7
OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4

JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN

7C3434	10:05pm	2:40am+1	2, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:50pm	12:45am+1	3, 7
UO42	4:50pm	12:05am+1	2, 6
UO42	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
UO42	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Guam Family Readiness Groups host donation drive

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Navy Family Readiness Groups donated a combined number of more than 8,000 items, which were brought to Harvest House Closet, a section of Harvest House that collects items and provides them to foster families that need them.

BARRIGADA, Guam—Navy Family Readiness Groups (FRGs) across Guam participated in a donation drive benefitting Harvest House from March 15 through April 15.

In total, the participating unit FRGs donated a combined number of more than 8,000 items, which were brought to Harvest House Closet, a section of Harvest House that collects items and provides them to foster families that need them.

"It's such a joy to watch the faces of the foster children and their families when we are able to provide for their basic needs with supplies donated to Harvest House," said Lana Nutt, volunteer for Harvest House and spouse of a Commander, Submarine Squadron (COMSUBRON) 15 Sailor. "Without these essential items, families would be required to make purchases each time a new child enters their home, which can get quite expensive."

First place for the Harvest House donation drive was COMSUBRON 15's FRG, who donated more than 2,600 items to Harvest House Closet. Second place was USS Emory S. Land (AS 39) and third was USS Frank Cable (AS 40), donating approximately 1,800 and 1,300 items, respectively.

"COMSUBRON 15's FRG is a relatively new group, so it was great to have the Sailors and families assigned to us donate such a large number of items," said Marlo Busch, FRG President for COMSUBRON 15. "These items make a huge impact on the community of Guam, and I know the foster families and children with Harvest House will appreciate our efforts."

The Harvest House donation drive was the second of its kind on Guam. USS Topeka (SSN 754) organized the first FRG donation drive in 2016 for Guam Animals in Need (GAIN). USS Frank Cable (AS 40) donated the most items for the GAIN drive and selected Harvest House as the recipient for this year's event. Katie GrosJacques, Cable's FRG President, coordinated with the other unit FRGs to hold a friendly competition to encourage volunteering in the local community.

"We looked for a way [the FRGs] could give back to the community in a fun, friendly way", said GrosJacques. "Hosting a donation drive seemed like an excellent opportunity for us to get involved, plus it's a great help for those who need it."

Harvest House is a ministry for foster children and families on Guam that provides for their physical needs, spiritual encouragement and emotional support. They promote awareness by serving as a point of contact for community members and organizations interested in supporting the foster care system on Guam; recruiting foster families and supporting families; and connecting with foster moms every month in a support group. Harvest House Closet collects new and gently used items that are given directly to the foster children that need them. Since 2009, Harvest House has supported over 500 foster children, 100 foster families and two shelters through outreach programs.

"It's such a great help to the foster community of Guam to get this number of items from caring military families," said Nutt. "We received items from basic toiletries to clothing and even a couple of larger pieces of furniture, like a crib and dresser. These donations will do a lot of good for our families in need. We are so thankful for this group of people who chose to support the abused, abandoned and neglected children of Guam."

The purpose of an FRG is to prepare members for deployments and homecoming; provide family support during deployments; help families adjust to challenges and support one another in times of personal, unit or area crises; welcome and mentor members who are new to the Navy lifestyle; and coordinate social events and community service projects. FRGs are an integral part of a support service network that bundles key support services that provide coordinated support to service members and their families.

The local FRGs plan on hosting up to two donation drive competitions a year. The winner of each event will pick the following charity and have a small celebration hosted by the previous winner. Participating FRGs for the Harvest House Closet donation drive include COMSUBRON 15, Los Angeles-class attack submarines Topeka, USS Key West (SSN 722) and USS Oklahoma City (SSN 723), submarine tenders Land and Cable, and Coastal Riverine Group (CRG).

COMSUBRON 15 is located at Polaris Point, Naval Base Guam in Apra Harbor, Guam, and consists of four Los Angeles-class attack submarines. The squadron staff is responsible for providing training, material and personnel readiness support to these commands. Also based out of Naval Base Guam are submarine tenders USS Frank Cable (AS 40) and USS Emory S. Land (AS 39). The submarines and tenders are maintained as part of the U.S. Navy's forward-deployed submarine force and are readily capable of meeting global operational requirements.

For more news from Commander, Submarine Squadron 15, visit our official CSS-15 website at http://www.csp.navy.mil/css15 and our official Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/SubmarineSquadron15/.

Are you interested in taking orders to Guam? Want to learn more about the duty station and life on our island? For more information, check out the "Go Guam!" website at http://www.csp.navy.mil/goguam/ and download the '1st Fifteen' checklist. ***(PR)***

CNMI DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
AMERICA'S SBDC CNMI
CDA Commonwealth Development Authority

FREE Small Business Development Workshops

How to Write a Financial Plan

Wednesday, May 10th 2017

8:30am—11:00am

Location: CDA Board Room

Presented by: Denise Mendiola, Guam SBDC Senior Business Advisor/ Women in Business Program Coordinator

Mendiola has over 12 years in business development and management with an emphasis in training and marketing and has over 10 years as a small business owner. Major awards include the 2004 SBA's Women in Business Champion, 2006 ASBDC State Star, 2012 ASBDC State Star, 2016 ASBDC State Star, and recently name one of the Top 25 Influential Women on Guam.

A financial plan is the heart of any startup or existing business. It is a culmination of the income statement, the cash-flow projection and the business' balance sheet. The financial plan is a way to look at a business through a financial lens, which is the view most investors or bankers prefer. When preparing a financial plan, it is not mandatory that you be a mathematician, but you need to understand how the numbers affect a business. This training will provide a foundation on both the financial reports and methodology to develop the numbers for those reports.

Limited Seating. **Register now at: pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.com**

For more information or to reserve your seats today, contact the CNMI SBDC at 670-664-3018 or visit www.pacificsbdc.com

DISCLAIMER: The Pacific Islands SBDC Network is funded in part through a co-operative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration. All opinions, conclusions or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA. Requests for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Language assistance services are available for limited English proficient individuals with enough advance notice. For arrangements, please contact Lorie Pangilinan, P.O. Box 5795 CHRB, Saipan MP 96950 Tel: (670)664-3018 or Email lorie@pacificsbdc.com. Services are extended to the public on a non-discriminatory basis.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-17-031

FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to perform a financial and compliance audit of the CUC for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016. The audit must be performed in compliance with the latest revision of the following guidelines:

- *OMB Circular A-133*
- *Standard for Audits of Government Organization, Programs, Activities and Function, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States*
- *Audits of States and Local Government Units, Industry Audit guide issued by the American Institute of Public Accountants (AICPA)*
- *Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS)*

The date of contract award will be no later than May 26, 2017. Audit work shall commence thereafter and must be completed within forty (40) calendar days from issuance of the Notice to Proceed (NTP). Auditors are responsible to review all the 2016 financial statements to include the physical CUC assets.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-17-031, Financial and Compliance Audit for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2016"to Mr. Michael Pai, Public Auditor, Office of the Public Auditor, 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST), local time, on May 12, 2017.** Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All inquiries regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 5, 2017** to Michael Pai, Public Auditor, Office of the Public Auditor, 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950 with a copy to Antonio Castro, CUC Chief Financial Officer, via email address antonio.castro@cucgov.org and Manny Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reasons and to waive any defects in any proposals if, in its sole opinion, to do so will be in the best interest of the CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANUEL B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Amata attends President's executive order signing

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flanked by members of Congress, including Congresswoman Amata Coleman Radewagen, President Donald Trump signs the executive order to review the Antiquities Act.

WASHINGTON, D.C—American Samoa Congresswoman Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen expressed her pleasure to be invited to President Donald Trump's executive order signing that would review the Antiquities Act. Due to the importance the order has for American Samoa, Radewagen was in attendance for the historic signing.

"I want to thank the President for his actions today. While well intended when first signed into law, the Antiquities Act had become a tool for previous administrations to control nonfederal lands and marine resources without input from the local populations," said Amata. "These monument designations that have come at the behest of special interest groups, have often been extremely harmful to those who have traditionally utilized them, such as American Samoa. Among the monuments being considered are marine monuments in the Pacific, including the monument around American Samoa. If legislative action is necessary, I will take whatever action necessary to return our waters which have sustained us long before our relationship with America. Our people have been cut off from access to regions of the Pacific that we have fished for over a millennium. I look forward to the corresponding actions that will come as a result of this review, and getting our fishermen back on the waters that have sustained us long before any relationship with the United States." continued Radewagen.

The review will specifically examine the designations made over the past 20 years, and will seek to rectify the lack of input from local leadership that has plagued the Act for far too long. Further actions are expected as a result of the review.

"I want to once again thank President Trump for his keen insight in examining this issue that is so important to American Samoa, and I look forward to continuing to work with his administration and correct this long standing issue that has caused so much harm. I also want to thank Chairman Bishop for joining me on a letter that we sent to the President earlier this year regarding the issue," concluded the congresswoman. ***(PR)***

UOG Press launches inaugural Undergraduate Research Journal of Micronesia

MANGILAO, Guam—The University of Guam Press will launch the inaugural issue of the Undergraduate Research Journal of Micronesia next week. Every year, undergraduate students throughout Micronesia engage in integral research that helps them gain a deeper understanding of the unique issues faced in our region. However, they are rarely afforded opportunities to share their valuable research with their community. Thus, the Undergraduate Research Journal of Micronesia was created to provide an academic space for undergraduate research and writing.

UOG Press and the Micronesian Area Research Center (MARC) will host the launch of the academic online journal on Thursday, May 4, 2017 from 4pm to 5pm, at the UOG Jesus and Eugenia Leon Guerrero Business and Public Administration IT&E Lecture Hall (Room 131). The journal's editor, Kisha Borja-Quichocho-Calvo, will provide introductory remarks and briefly discuss the journey behind the publication, as well as provide an overview of the journal's contents. Launch attendees will also have the opportunity to meet some of the students, whose work is published in the journal and the journal's UOG faculty review board, which includes Dr. Lisa Linda Natividad, Dr. Yoshito Kawabata, and Professor Teresita Perez.

"There are no academic journals in Micronesia which publish the academic work of only undergraduate students, which means that our undergraduate students have little-to-no regional publishing opportunities for their term papers and capstone papers," said Borja-Quichocho-Calvo, who is also the MARC Publications editor. "Students invest so much time and energy into researching and writing papers, and when they're finished, they usually just wait for a grade, but don't really think that they can do anything else with their papers, like publish them. We hope that the journal will continue to grow and that more undergraduate students from our region will submit their academic papers for publication, and that post-secondary faculty will continue to encourage our students to publish."

As this is the first issue of the journal, one of the main goals of UOG Press is to continue to maintain the publication. This includes growing and fostering a research community at the post-secondary level, beginning with undergraduate students. "At some point, we also anticipate including academic writing from undergraduates at our local and regional community college institutions," Borja-Quichocho-Calvo added.

The first issue of The Undergraduate Research Journal of Micronesia features five articles, written by current and recently graduated undergraduate students. Each article relates to a local-regional topic or issue.

The Undergraduate Research Journal of Micronesia is an online publication and will be available, free of charge, at the UOG Press website (www.uog.edu/uogpress) following the launch.

Volume 1 of the Undergraduate Research Journal of Micronesia features the following articles:

1. "Addressing American Empire in the Pacific: Chamorro-American Identity and Filipino Settler Colonialism in 20th Century Guam" by Kristin Oberiano.

2. "Birds of a Feather Laugh Together: A Correlational Study between Humor and Intercultural Sensitivity" by Maimia G. Orino.

3. "Navigating the Seas: The Canoes of Yap" by Rico Roldan.

4. "No Trust, No Us: Online and Offline Civic Engagement among Millennials in Guam" by Ashley Q. Sablan.

5. "Thinking beyond the Box: The Need for Cognition as a Link between Intercultural Sensitivity and Cognitive Flexibility" by Archie C. Matta Jr.

For more information, please contact UOG Press Managing Editor Victoria-Lola Leon Guerrero at (671)735-2154 or victorialola@triton.uog.edu. ***(UOG)***

Sustainable development through early warning systems and forecasting

SUVA, Fiji—The Pacific Community remains committed to assisting Pacific Island countries with strengthening their early warning systems and weather forecasting mechanisms for sustainable development.

As part of this effort, SPC is developing a coastal inundation forecasting tool for the World Meteorological Organization's Coastal Inundation Forecasting Demonstration Project in Fiji.

This tool will be demonstrated on the Coral Coast before being replicated in other areas within Fiji including the Nadi River catchment.

This project has been established at the request of the Fiji Meteorological Service and made possible with donor funding from the Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA) in 2017.

The Fiji Meteorology Service Director, Ravind Kumar said, "Ultimately, we want to ensure resilience and sustainability for coastal communities. This tool will contribute towards saving lives, coastal infrastructure and assist with decision and policy making, especially with regards to infrastructure in coastal areas."

It has been noted that the livelihoods of people living in low lying coastal areas and infrastructure are at risk due to increasing coastal inundations. Coastal inundation is the flooding of normally dry, low-lying coastal land caused by severe weather events.

The CIFDP aims to build a multi-hazard early warning operational forecasting system - using oceanographic and hydrological evidence – to provide flood forecasts for areas at risk of inundation from both ocean and river sources.

SPC's role will see the development and integration of storm surge, tides, and sea surface height anomalies to assist the early warning forecasts. This will allow countries to sustainably respond to ocean and climate changes for improved and progressive economic growth.

SPC has previously worked with partners on the Changing Waves and Coasts in the Pacific Project which utilized latest research tools to assess baseline wave climate and its variability as well as the predicted changes in wave climate in the Pacific region.

Acting Director for SPC's Geoscience, Akuila Tawake, said that understanding the wave climate in the Pacific region is important for climate change adaptation and risk reduction. While WACOP provided an important baseline, SPC is now in a position to develop reliable coastal inundation forecasting in partnership with the Fiji Meteorological Service.

The project will also provide specialised training for disaster managers and forecasters.

CIFDP is also being developed for use by national meteorological services in other countries including Bangladesh, Indonesia and the Dominican Republic. ***(PR)***

Business

US economy expanded at weakest pace in 3 years

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. economy turned in the weakest performance in three years in the January-March quarter as consumers sharply slowed their spending. The result fell far short of President Donald Trump's ambitious growth targets and underscores the challenges of accelerating economic expansion.

The gross domestic product, the total output of goods and services, grew by just 0.7 percent in the first quarter following a gain of 2.1 percent in the fourth quarter, the Commerce Department reported Friday.

The slowdown primarily reflected slower consumer spending, which grew at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 0.3 percent after a growth rate of 3.5 percent in the fourth quarter. It was the poorest quarterly showing in more than seven years.

Despite the anemic first-quarter performance, the U.S. economy's prospects for the rest of the year appear solid. Growth is expected to be fueled by a revival in consumer spending, supported by continued strong job growth, accelerating wage gains and record stock levels.

Weakness in the first quarter followed by a stronger expansion in the spring has become a pattern in recent years. The government's difficulty with seasonal adjustments for the first quarter has been a chronic problem and may have shaved as much as 1 percentage point off growth this year.

The sharp slowdown in consumer spending in the first quarter was attributed to a collection of temporary factors: warmer weather, which shrank spending on heating bills, a drop-off in auto sales after a strong fourth quarter and a delay in sending out tax refund checks, which also dampened spending.

Sal Guatieri, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets, said he expected consumer and government spending to bounce back, leading to a much stronger second quarter.

"Still, the report will mark a rough start to the administration's high hopes of achieving 3 percent or better growth, not the kind of news it was looking for to cap its first 100 days in office," Guatieri said in a note to clients.

Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, one of the administration's top economic policymakers, said that the weak first quarter performance showed the need for the new policies Trump is offering.

"We need the president's tax plan, regulatory relief, trade negotiations and the unleashing of (the) American energy sector to overcome the dismal economy inherited by the Trump administration," Ross said in a statement.

He said that strong business and consumer sentiment "must be released from the regulatory and tax shackles constraining economic growth."

Averaging the two quarters, they forecast growth of around 2 percent for the first half of this year. That would be in line with the mediocre performance of the eight-year economic expansion, when growth has averaged just 2.1 percent, the poorest showing for any recovery in the post-World War II period.

Trump had repeatedly attacked the weak GDP rates during the campaign as an example of the Obama administration's failed economic policies. He said his program of tax cuts for individuals and businesses, deregulation and tougher enforcement of trade agreements would double growth to 4 percent or better.

In unveiling an outline of the administration's tax proposals on Wednesday, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said he believed growth above 3 percent would be achievable.

Many economists are more skeptical. They are forecasting growth of this year around 2.2 percent. That would be an improvement from last year's 1.6 percent, the weakest showing in five years, but far below Trump's goal. Many analysts believe that the impacts of Trump's economic program will not be felt until 2018 because they are not expecting Congress to approve some version of Trump's tax program until late this year.

The GDP report released Friday was the first of three estimates the government will make of first quarter growth.

The 0.7 percent increase was the worst showing since GDP contracted by 1.2 percent in the first quarter of 2014.

In addition to weaker consumer activity, the first quarter slowdown also reflected a cutback in restocking of store shelves. The slowdown in inventory rebuilding cut nearly a percentage point from growth in the first quarter. Also acting as a drag was a reduction in government spending, which fell at a 1.7 percent annual rate with both the federal government and state and local governments seeing cuts.

Malaysia's leader: ASEAN seen growing to 4th-largest economy

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The 10 countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN, could form the world's fourth largest economy by 2030 though work is needed to help small companies and reduce trade barriers, Malaysia's Prime Minister Najib Razak said Friday.

Najib told a business forum on the sidelines of a summit of ASEAN leaders meeting in Manila that the combined size of the group's economies will grow to $9.2 trillion by 2050.

He said more optimistic forecasts see that happening as early as 2030, turning the region into the world's fourth biggest economy after the U.S., EU and China.

As of Nov. 2015, the region's combined economy was nearly $2.7 trillion, ranking 7th largest in the world, he said.

Growth is crucial to ensure prosperity can be shared, Najib said. Some ASEAN members, like Singapore, are already affluent, but others, such as Myanmar and Laos, lag far behind.

"We do not want our citizens to be marginalized," he said. "In the age of extremism and radicalization, there is a practical reason for that - we know that those who see no hope in their own societies are more prone to the silent calls of terrorists who exploit their vulnerability, and lure them with their lies, giving them a false sense of purpose and achievement."

Najib urged that ASEAN members bring average tariffs to zero or near zero from the 4 percent average seen in 2015. He also decried an increase in "non-tariff barriers," such as quotas and excessively onerous import regulations, saying the number of such measures had risen to nearly 6,000 in 2015 from about 1,600 in 2000.

Expanding e-commerce would be especially helpful to small companies. Retail e-commerce transactions in ASEAN countries currently average just over 1 percent of total retail spending, compared to more than 10 percent in developed economies, suggesting huge potential for growth, Najib added.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-17-024

KAILING DRIVE WATERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified construction firms for the Kailing Drive Waterline Replacement Project, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This work consists of abandoning the existing 4-inch waterline and replacing it with a new 4 inch C900 PVC pipe. Work will also consist of installing new fire hydrant and gate valve assemblies, reconnection of service laterals to the new water main and replacement of water meter assemblies. Payment is only for the items completely installed and accepted by CUC.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **120 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $50.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **May 17, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-17-024, CUC Kailing Drive Waterline Replacement Project, Saipan",** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 31 , 2017,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms.

Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **4:00 PM (ChST) on May 19, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Joel Puyat, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email joel.puyat@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Technician- via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-17-025

ISA DRIVE SEWER LINE EXTENSION PROJECT PART B

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified Construction firms for the Construction of the Isa Drive Sewer Line Extension Project Part B in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This work consists of new installation of new sewer mains, manholes, and drop manholes. The asphalt pavement restoration shall be completed by others. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications.

CUC requires the Project to be completed by August 15, 2017 pending the Department of Public Works ongoing road construction. It may be extended if the road construction experiences any delays in the vicinity of the sewer line extension. The contractor shall be allotted a minimum of 90 days to complete the work.

This project is funded by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Capital Improvement Project thru the CNMI. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **May 3, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-17-025, Isa Drive Sewer Line Extension Part B"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 16, 2017,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on May 8, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician – marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org and to Travis Spaeth, CUC Project Engineer via email address travis.spaeth@cucgov.org .

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Nation

TRUMP'S FIRST 100 DAYS:

A president's very public education

WASHINGTON (AP)—Health care is complicated. China can be a useful ally. NATO isn't obsolete. Being president is hard.

Over the course of his 100 days in office, President Donald Trump has been startlingly candid about his public education in the ways of Washington and the world.

He's been blocked by the courts and befuddled by a divided Republican Party that's running Congress, and his first months on the job have left the long-time reality-TV and real estate tycoon struggling for major governing victories and searching for a new approach to many of his campaign promises.

His "America first" campaign rhetoric has bumped up against the challenges of conflict overseas. His ambitious declarations on health care and immigration have run into the limits of Congress and the courts.

A president who prides himself on his ideological flexibility has struggled to manage a novice political team, split between moderate and conservative advisers, and he's found himself reaching out to the friends and business associates from the world he left behind.

On foreign policy, Trump has been persuaded by foreign leaders and has leaned heavily on a national security team with more governing experience than his political advisers. He's looked for lessons in his biggest victory: putting a conservative judge, Neil Gorsuch, on the Supreme Court.

"I really just see the bigness of it all, but also the responsibility. And the human responsibility," Trump said in an Associated Press interview, assessing the difficulty of the presidency.

"This is tougher than what he thought," said Trump friend and business partner Phil Ruffin, who has visited the president twice since he took office Jan. 20. "In business, you make a decision and it happens. In government, it's not like that."

Just days into Trump's presidency, the courts rejected his first travel ban. Since then, they've pushed back on his rewritten travel ban and his attempt to cut federal money for cities that harbor people who are in the United States illegally. But Trump's roughest lesson has come from Congress, which has balked at his attempt to repeal the Obama-era health law his party campaigned against for years.

During the campaign, Trump said the Affordable Care Act would be gone on his first day in the White House. In the weeks after his inauguration, the realities set it.

By February, he told a group of governors that "it's an unbelievably complex subject," adding: "Nobody knew that health care could be so complicated."

For Trump, the health care battle was a rude introduction to the complicated internal politics in the Republican-run House, which includes hard-liners in the Freedom Caucus and moderates in the Tuesday Group. When the White House made concessions to conservatives, it pushed some moderates away, and vice versa.

Unable to cut a deal in late March, House Republicans pulled the health bill from consideration. Trump lashed out at Freedom Caucus leaders on Twitter and indicated he would seek retribution come campaign season.

Trump's team tried to pick up the pieces but hasn't gotten there yet. A renewed burst of momentum this past week, buoyed by hopes the House would vote before Saturday, Trump's 100th day, petered out. House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., said he would not be rushed by the president's deadline.

The contrast between the scuttled first attempt on health care and the relative smooth sailing of Gorsuch was a learning experience. The takeaway: working behind the scenes with outside groups, which lined up solidly behind Gorsuch, and lawmakers can pay dividends.

"Outreach to partner organizations starting sooner is helpful and I think that you will see that," said Marc Short, the White House legislative director. "Probably we were a little bit surprised when we engaged some of the conservative groups on health care that they felt they'd been left out of the conversation from the Hill."

None of Trump's top advisers had deep experience in legislating. Now they've begun to compensate with outreach. The White House has hosted 230 members of Congress, and there have been 10 bowling sessions in the Executive Mansion's basement. But no amount of bowling can overcome the division in the Republican Party.

The president has seemed taken aback.

In the AP interview, Trump said there was "a pretty vast area" between the approach by the most conservative members of his party and those who are more moderate.

To bridge the divides, Trump's advisers have worked to moderate between the factions as his team tries to revive the health bill. The White House is taking a similar approach on the president's tax plan.

Restless in Washington, Trump is working at "breakneck speed," chief of staff Reince Priebus told reporters. Sometimes so quickly that his own advisers can't keep up.

The president's declaration last week that his team would release a tax proposal before the 100 day mark startled some in the White House, who scrambled to put together the one-page outline that was released Wednesday.

The proposal lacks the details about making taxes simpler and more efficient in ways that don't add to the federal government's mounting debt. Those are core Republican principles that would require lawmakers to eliminate or reduce precious tax breaks enjoyed by millions of people.

Trump did meet his goal of starting work on the plan in his first 100 days, but another tough challenge awaits on Capitol Hill as he still contends with health care.

Trump's frustration with a lack of progress has sometimes erupted in anger - and sometimes in the direction of his political advisers. He's frequently blamed his team for being unable to quash negative stories. He was particularly incensed by the steady drip of revelations about his campaign's possible ties to Russia.

After Attorney General Jeff Sessions stepped aside from Russia investigations because of his own undisclosed contacts with a Russian ambassador, Trump unleashed on his top advisers in an Oval Office meeting. Sessions' decision overshadowed Trump's well-received first address to Congress days earlier; it was a speech the White House hoped would give the president a burst of momentum.

Asia

Trump: China pressuring N. Korea on missile, nukes

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—President Donald Trump said in a television interview to be aired Sunday that he believes China's president has been putting pressure on North Korea as it pursues its missile and nuclear weapons programs.

In an interview with CBS' "Face the Nation," Trump said he won't be happy if North Korea conducts a nuclear test and that he believes Chinese President Xi Jinping won't be happy, either.

Asked if that means military action, Trump responded: "I don't know. I mean, we'll see."

On Saturday, a North Korean mid-range ballistic missile apparently failed shortly after launch, South Korea and the United States said, the third test-fire flop just this month but a clear message of defiance as a U.S. supercarrier conducts drills in nearby waters.

North Korean ballistic missile tests are banned by the United Nations because they're seen as part of the North's push for a nuclear-tipped missile that can hit the U.S. mainland. The latest test came as U.S. officials pivoted from a hard line to diplomacy at the U.N. in an effort to address what may be Washington's most pressing foreign policy challenge.

North Korea didn't immediately comment on the launch, though its state media on Saturday reiterated the country's goal of being able to strike the continental U.S.

The timing of the North's test was striking: Only hours earlier the U.N. Security Council held a ministerial meeting on Pyongyang's escalating weapons program. North Korean officials boycotted the meeting, which was chaired by U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement that the missile flew for several minutes and reached a maximum height of 71 kilometers (44 miles) before it apparently failed.

It didn't immediately provide an estimate on how far the missile flew, but a U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive matters, said it was likely a medium-range KN-17 ballistic missile. It broke up a few minutes after the launch.

Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga, speaking after a meeting of Japan's National Security Council, said the missile is believed to have traveled about 50 kilometers (30 miles) and fallen on an inland part of North Korea.

Analysts say the KN-17 is a new Scud-type missile developed by North Korea. The North fired the same type of missile April 16, just a day after a massive military parade where it showed off its expanding missile arsenal, but U.S. officials called that launch a failure.

Some analysts say a missile the North test fired April 5, which U.S. officials identified as a Scud variant, also might have been a KN-17. U.S. officials said that missile spun out of control and crashed into the sea.

Moon Seong Mook, a South Korean analyst and former military official, says that the North would gain valuable knowledge even from failed launches as it continues to improve its technologies for missiles. The South Korean and Japanese assessments about Saturday's launch indicate that the North fired the missile from a higher-than-normal angle to prevent it from flying too far, he said.

"They could be testing a variety of things, such as the thrust of the rocket engine or the separation of stages," Moon said. "A failure is a failure, but that doesn't mean the launch was meaningless."

The two earlier launches were conducted from an eastern coastal area, but Saturday's missile was fired in the west, from an area near Pukchang, just north of the capital, Pyongyang.

South Korea's Foreign Ministry denounced the launch as an "obvious" violation of United Nations resolutions and the latest display of North Korea's "belligerence and recklessness."

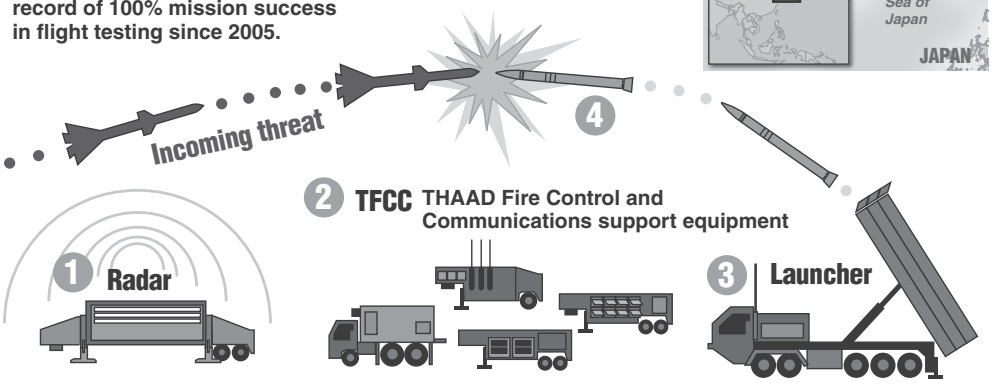
"We sternly warn that the North Korean government will continue to face a variety of strong punitive measures issued by the U.N. Security Council and others if it continues to reject denuclearization and play with fire in front of the world," the ministry said.

United States sets up missile defense in South Korea

Hours after a display of North Korean military power, South Korea announced Wednesday the installation of key parts of a U.S. missile defense system. The Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense system, or THAAD, is being set up at a golf course in the North Gyeongsang province.

Terminal High Altitude Area Defense

The THAAD system provides the capability to defend against short and medium ranged ballistic missiles. The system has a track record of 100% mission success in flight testing since 2005.



1. Radar detects incoming threat
2. The target is identified and engaged
3. Interceptor is fired from truck-mounted launcher
4. Interceptor uses kinetic energy to destroy missile

Source: AP, Lockheed Martin, BBC
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

World

Parents of missing UK girl still hopeful she's 'out there'

LONDON (AP)—The parents of Madeleine McCann, the 3-year-old British girl who vanished during a family vacation to Portugal in 2007, say they are still hopeful they will one day be reunited with their daughter as they mark the 10th anniversary of her disappearance.

In an interview with the British media released Sunday, the McCanns said they felt encouraged by the "real progress" that British police have made in the case in the past five years.

Scotland Yard said last week that, a decade later, detectives are still pursuing "critical" leads to trace Madeleine, who disappeared from a vacation home in Portugal's Algarve region on the night of May 3, 2007. Her parents had gone out to a tapas bar nearby after putting her and her twin siblings to bed.

Despite an investigation costing more than 11 million pounds ($14 million) so far, police said there was no "definitive evidence" on whether Madeleine - who would be almost 14 now - is alive or dead. The girl was abducted from the apartment, they said, but how and why it happened is still largely a mystery.

AP
Kate and Gerry McCann, whose daughter Madeleine disappeared from a holiday flat in Portugal ten-years ago, react during a BBC TV interview in Loughborough, England, Friday April 28, 2017.

One theory that police say hasn't been ruled out is a "burglary gone wrong."

Gerry McCann, 48, acknowledged it was "devastating" not to have found her, but added: "No parent is going to give up on their child, unless they know for certain their child is dead. And we just don't have any evidence."

His wife, Kate, agreed.

"My hope for Madeleine being out there is no less than it was almost 10 years ago," she said. "I never thought we'd still be in this situation, so far along the line. It's a huge amount of time ... it's a hard marker of time."

The case has sparked global interest partly because of the McCanns' campaign to publicize their case in an attempt to find Madeleine. The couple also said they planned to challenge a court ruling that cleared a former Portuguese detective of breaching libel laws after he published a book alleging they were involved in Madeleine's disappearance.

Asked how the family was coping, the McCanns said that, like other families who have suffered tragedies, they are trying to move on and focus on their 12-year-old twins.

"You adapt and you have a new normality," Gerry McCann said. "At some point you've got to realize that time is not frozen." His wife said that she still buys Madeleine birthday and Christmas presents every year.

"I obviously have to think about what age she is and something that, whenever we find her, will still be appropriate. So there's a lot of thought that goes into it," she said. "But I couldn't not, you know. She's still our daughter, she'll always be our daughter."

EU leaders unite ahead of Brexit divorce talks with UK

BRUSSELS (AP)—European Union leaders vowed Saturday to stand shoulder-to-shoulder behind their negotiating team during the divorce proceedings with Britain and warned that demands from British Prime Minister Theresa May will be dealt with "firmly."

The 27 EU leaders in Brussels finalized the cornerstones of their negotiating stance within four minutes of starting a short smooth summit, a month after the British leader triggered two years of exit talks on March 29. The negotiations themselves are to open shortly after Britain holds an early election on June 8.

"We now have unanimous support from all the 27 member states and the EU institutions, giving us a strong political mandate for these negotiations" under chief negotiator Michel Barnier, EU Council President Donald Tusk said.

Tusk said there can't be any discussions on the future relationship between the EU and Britain until there has been major headway on key issues.

"We must first achieve sufficient progress on citizens' rights, finances and the border issue in Ireland. It is too early to speculate on when this might happen," Tusk said Saturday.

He said the 27 leaders would unanimously have to say there was "sufficient progress" to allow the talks to go to the next phase. That would give any EU country with a dispute with Britain, like Spain over Gibraltar, major influence over the timetable of the talks.

The negotiating guidelines also halted British hopes of having future trade relations being discussed concurrently through the talks.

"Before discussing the future, we have to sort out our past. We will handle it with genuine care—but firmly," Tusk said.

Some at the summit were already considering how to deal with possible British negotiating tactics.

"Maybe the British government will do its utmost to split the 27 nations. It is a trap we need to avoid," said Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel.

Ever since the June 23 referendum last year in which Britons narrowly voted to leave the bloc, the unity of the remaining 27 EU nations "has been really exemplary," said German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

In contrast, citizens in Britain have been divided because of the momentous changes looming.

The EU is also intent on making Britain pay a divorce bill, which some EU officials have put as high as 60 billion euros ($65 billion). The money aims to pay for everything from pensions to financial commitments already made in the EU's 7-year-budget, which runs until 2020.

French President Francois Hollande said the leaders agreed on "a simple principle," applicable to Britain or any other country that might want to quit the bloc in the future, "that they must not be in a more favorable situation on the outside than they were on the inside."

"There is always a price, a cost, a consequence from quitting the Union," Hollande said at his farewell European summit.

To kick off the negotiations with Britain, Tusk wants to center on the millions of people living in each other's nations who would be immediately affected.

All sides "need solid guarantees for all citizens and their families who will be affected by Brexit on both sides. This must be the No. 1 priority," Tusk said.

Some 3 million citizens from the 27 nations live in Britain while up to 2 million Britons live on the continent, all facing massive uncertainty on such issues as health benefits, pensions, taxes, employment and education.

Macron hunts for French rural votes, Le Pen cheers new ally

USSEAU, France (AP)—French presidential frontrunner Emmanuel Macron hunted Saturday for votes in rural France where his far-right opponent, Marine Le Pen, is making inroads among country folk who feel left behind.

Back in Paris, Le Pen announced that if she wins the presidency in the May 7 runoff she would name former rival Nicolas Dupont-Aignan, her new campaign ally, as her prime minister. The move aims to secure the nearly 1.7 million votes that the anti-European Union conservative got when he was eliminated from the presidential race in the first round of balloting.

Since many Dupont-Aignan voters had already been expected to switch to Le Pen for her runoff against the centrist Macron, the alliance is unlikely to prove a massive electoral boost for her.

Symbolically, however, it punctured a hole in hopes - expressed by mainstream politicians on both the left and the right - that French voters would unite against Le Pen's extremism in the runoff. That did happen in 2002, when her father, Jean-Marie Le Pen, made it to the presidential runoff but lost overwhelmingly to Jacques Chirac.

At a news conference with Dupont-Aignan, Marine Le Pen celebrated his backing as the creation of "a great patriotic and republican alliance" and said they will campaign "hand-in-hand."

"It's a historic day, because we are putting France's interests before personal or partisan ones," Dupont-Aignan said.

Macron said their far-right and right-wing alliance made the campaign battle lines even clearer.

"There is a reactionary, nationalist, anti-European right-wing that has structured itself and which, today, is an important political force," he said. "Facing it is a progressive bloc that I represent, and which defends France."

Macron is not saying yet who he would name to lead his government if he is elected. In a radio interview Saturday, he merely said he has "people in mind."

Venturing into rural France to combat Le Pen's arguments that he represents just the big-city elite, the former economy minister plugged his proposals to reverse the economic and social decline in farming areas. Macron promised to modernize phone and internet connections in rural areas and vigorously defended the EU as an essential market for French farmers.

On an impromptu tour of the farmers' market in the central town of Poitiers, Macron listened to a grain farmer complain about low-price competition from other EU countries and a vegetable farmer lament about the difficulty of getting loans to upgrade farm equipment.

As the smell of goat cheeses wafted across the stalls, Macron rebuffed Le Pen's criticisms of the EU with a vigorous defense of European free trade, saying her plans to leave the bloc and its agricultural aid program would spell the end of French farming.

"Rural areas need an open, conquering France," Macron said. "Our agriculture needs Europe and openness."

Macron promised that no more schools would close in rural areas if he is elected and said his government would intervene directly if mobile operators fail within 18 months to install high-speed fiber optic and phone networks "everywhere."

Focus

AP
In this March 7, 2017, file photo, President Donald Trump greets visitors touring the White House in Washington.

For Trump in White House, conflicts of interest range widely

By BERNARD CONDON
AP BUSINESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—When it comes to avoiding conflicts of interest in the White House, President Donald Trump has ripped up the playbook in his first 100 days.

Most presidents have taken pains to avoid even any appearance that they might be exploiting their office for personal financial gain. Trump doesn't seem too worried.

His company has doubled membership fees at his Palm Beach club, whose popularity has benefited from press coverage of his meetings there with political leaders.

The Trump Organization, now under the leadership of his sons Don Jr. and Eric Trump, has proceeded with overseas resort projects, thereby handing foreign governments potential leverage to influence the president. Trump has boasted of the charms of his new luxurious Washington hotel despite the impropriety of having diplomats bent on advancing their countries' interests spend money there.

Asked about a lawsuit filed by a watchdog group accusing him of profiting off the presidency, Trump was dismissive: "Totally without merit."

Before taking office Trump did announce some steps to limit personal conflicts for himself or his family. He vowed that his company would strike no new deals abroad, subject deals in the United States to review by an ethics lawyer and cede management control of operations to Don Jr. and Eric.

But given his sprawling worldwide holdings, no one expects the financial ethics questions for the 45th president to end soon.

The latest flare-up involves the tax-cut plan his administration announced Wednesday. Critics denounced it as a brazen giveaway to Trump and his family. The proposal would eliminate the estate tax, repeal the alternative minimum tax that affects some affluent people, deeply slash corporate rates, reduce investment taxes and allow "pass-through" firms to qualify for a much lower rate—all of which could benefit Trump, his family or his businesses.

The White House has argued that its tax-cut plan would help lower and middle class families, too, and speed economic growth.

Below is a rundown of some conflicts in the first 100 days of his presidency.

THE WINTER WHITE HOUSE

Since Trump became president, he has spent about half his weekends at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach, where he has hosted the prime minister of Japan and the president of China. Since inauguration, he has doubled membership fees to join the club to $200,000.

Presidents have invited political leaders to their properties before, of course. Franklin D. Roosevelt brought dignitaries to his Hyde Park estate near New York City. But FDR wasn't running the property as a business and making money off it.

THE DC HOTEL AND A NEW CHAIN

To limit foreign influence over his policies, Trump said he wouldn't strike any new business deals abroad. But governments have many other ways to curry favor with him.

Exhibit A: The Trump International Hotel near the White House, where diplomats like to stay and the embassies of Bahrain and Azerbaijan recently threw parties, according to a lawsuit filed by Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington. The watchdog group argues that the president is violating a clause in the U.S. Constitution barring him from accepting payments from foreign governments without Congress' consent.

A lawyer for the president says diplomats are just paying their hotel bills - a "fair value" exchange not barred by the Constitution. And Trump has promised to donate any profits from foreign governments that use his hotels to the U.S. Treasury.

Plans by the Trump Organization to open lower-priced hotels in the United States using money from outside investors are also worrying ethics groups. They warn that investors might use their participation in a hotel rollout as a way to buy influence in Washington.

The issue flared after media reports in March that a Texas developer wanted to use money from unnamed investors in Qatar, Kazakhstan and Turkey to build one of the hotels in Dallas. The Trump Organization recently canceled talks with the developer.

The Trump Organization hopes to open as many as 100 of these hotels, called Scion, in three years.

NEW TRADEMARKS OVERSEAS

Since his election, the president has been granted preliminary approval for 38 trademarks in China for hotels and golf clubs and others businesses there. In the past, his company has sometimes struggled to secure such valuable monopoly naming rights. Suspicions have arisen that Beijing is giving Trump's company favored treatment now that its owner sits in the Oval Office.

In its lawsuit, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington argues that the trademark approvals violate the U.S. Constitution. China says it handles all trademark applications "in accordance with the law and regulation."

IVANKA THE BRAND

Ivanka Trump is receiving good news from China, too. Since the inauguration, the president's daughter and West Wing adviser has received preliminary approval for five trademarks in China. Three of them were greenlighted the same day that she and her husband, Jared Kushner, a senior adviser to the president, sat beside President Xi Jinping and his wife for a lavish dinner at Mar-a-Lago.

The trademarks grant her monopoly rights to use her name for jewelry, bags and spa services. Public records show that her company has more than 180 pending and registered trademarks around the world.

Ivanka Trump's company says all 2017 Chinese trademarks were filed not with the intention of setting up businesses but to prevent counterfeiters or squatters from using her name. The first daughter has pledged to recuse herself from issues that pose conflicts while her father is president.

Sales and shipping data suggest that her business has boomed in recent months, especially in February. That was the month when Kellyanne Conway, a senior White House aide, suggested that Fox News viewers "Go buy Ivanka stuff."

The number of Ivanka-branded items sold through Lyst, an e-commerce platform, spiked 771 percent in February from the same month a year ago.

As a federal employee, Conway is barred by ethics rules from using her office to promote a business or product.

TROUBLE WITH JARED

White House ties appear to be hurting the Kushner family real estate business, not helping it, at least at one important property.

Its struggling flagship skyscraper at 666 Fifth Avenue needs an infusion of hundreds of millions of dollars, and a giant Chinese company was negotiating earlier this year with the Kushner family to provide the money. But then media reports highlighted the Chinese company's ties to the ruling Communist Party and how its investment could give Beijing leverage on some issues with the White House. Negotiations were called off in March.

To comply with ethics rules, Jared Kushner has sold his stake in the Fifth Avenue building and some other assets to relatives. He still holds a financial interest in hundreds of entities, though. And it's unclear who the lenders and partners in many of the entities are and who might benefit from policies that Kushner could affect now.

Health & Fitness

Exercise can be contagious, new social network analysis finds

By AMINA KHAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

Now here's a contagion that might not be so bad to encounter. A new analysis of the running habits of about 1.1 million people reveals that exercise is indeed contagious—though its communicability depends on who's spreading it.

The findings, published in the journal Nature Communications, also reveal that certain relationships are better at spreading the running bug than others—and could have implications for the study of other social contagions, such as obesity and smoking.

In recent years, researchers in a wide range of fields—from economics and politics to medicine and computer science—have begun to investigate the ways in which many of our individual decisions affect the decisions of our peers, and how behavioral changes may spread through a social network.

"If behavioural contagions exist," the study authors wrote, "understanding how, when and to what extent they manifest in different behaviours will enable us to transition from independent intervention strategies to more effective interdependent interventions that incorporate individuals' social contexts into their treatments."

Creating health and other interventions that effectively could harness the social network to maximize their benefit would be a real game-changer, researchers say. But it's been difficult to draw conclusions from studies based on self-reporting surveys (where participants may not be fully honest or aware of their own behaviors) or laboratory experiments (which may not fully capture the real-life complexities of causal relationships within social networks).

So for this paper, Sinan Aral and Christos Nicolaides of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology used fitness tracker data to study the running and activity habits of around 1.1 million people in an actual global social network. The runners had formed about 3.4 million social network ties; the researchers analyzed the 2.1 million or so ties for which they could pinpoint geographic location and weather information for both users. Over five years, these social media users ran a collective 350 million kilometers—and their runs were all automatically posted online for their friends to see, reducing the issues that come with self-reporting.

On the same day on average, an additional kilometer run by friends influences an individual to run an additional 0.3 kilometers. An additional kilometer per minute run by friends pushes a person to run an additional 0.3 kilometers per minute faster than usual. If those friends run an extra 10 minutes, that person is likely to run about three minutes longer than they would have. If those friends burn an extra 10 calories, that person will end up burning 3.5 more calories.

The effect is strongest on the same day and appears to diminish with time, the authors wrote.

So the scientists found that a runner's peers did influence him or her to run more—but they also discovered that not all users influenced their buddies equally. Individuals were more likely to be prodded to up their game by less-active peers than by more active ones. Men were influenced by the activity of both men and women, but women were influenced only by other women. Inconsistent runners influenced consistent runners far more than the other way around.

"Social comparisons may provide an explanation for these results," the study authors wrote. Social comparison theory, they added, "proposes that we self-evaluate by comparing ourselves to others."

But do we make upward comparisons to peers performing better than us, or downward comparisons to those performing worse? That's been a subject of debate, the researchers said.

"Comparisons to those ahead of us may motivate our own self-improvement, while comparisons to those behind us may create 'competitive behaviour to protect one's superiority,' " they explained. "Our findings are consistent with both arguments, but the effects are much larger for downward comparisons than for upward comparisons."

So people who we think are our closest fitness "peers"—particularly those who we think are slightly lower on the totem pole relative to ourselves—are most likely to get us to push our limits.

There are possible explanations in the scientific literature for the gender divide too, the scientists added.

"For example, men report receiving and being more influenced by social support in their decision to adopt exercise behaviours, while women report being more motivated by self-regulation and individual planning," the study authors wrote. "Moreover, men may be more competitive and specifically more competitive with each other. Experimental evidence suggests that women perform less well in mixed gender competition than men, even though they perform equally well in non-competitive or single sex competitive settings."

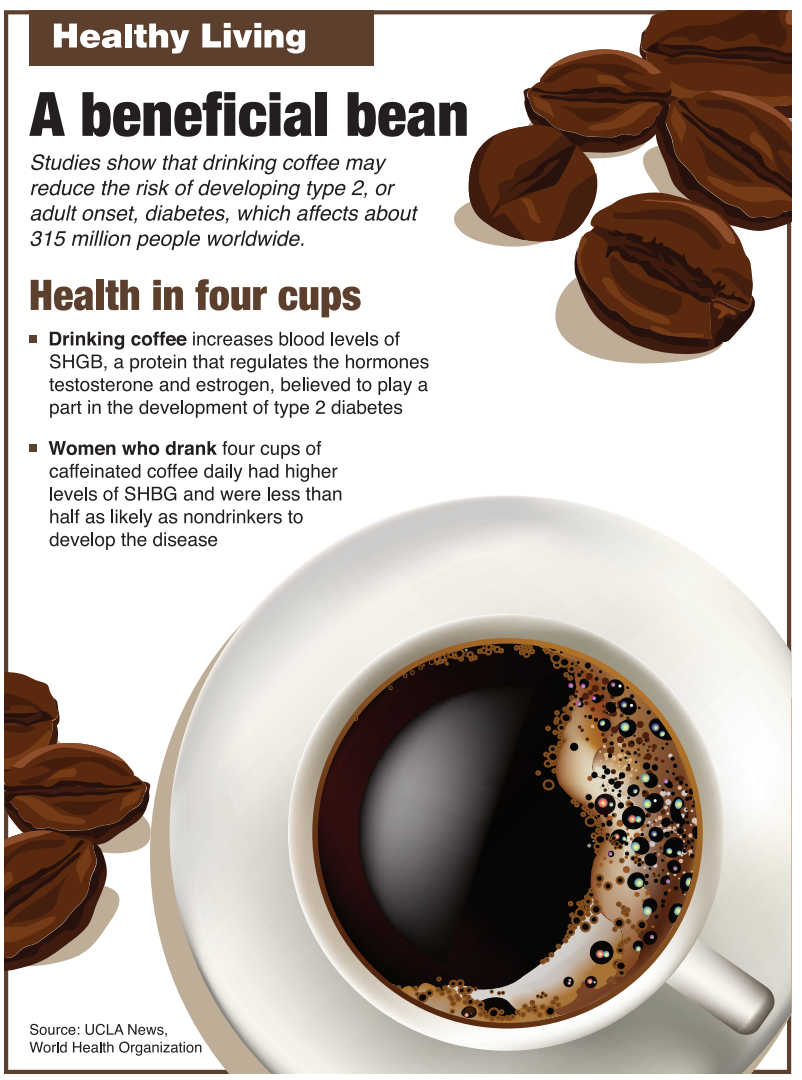
The findings reveal how effective monitoring these real-time networks may be to help scientists design all kinds of interventions to minimize the spread of social ills and maximize the spread of social benefits.

"The granularity and precision with which fitness tracking devices record real-world health behaviours portends a sea change in our understanding of human behaviour and social influence at scale," the study authors wrote. "Compared with prior studies, which relied on imprecise and frequently inaccurate self-reports, the potential for these kinds of data to extend our understanding of social behaviour in real-world settings is difficult to overstate."

It also highlights the fact that looking at "average" social influence may not be the most helpful indicator, especially when—as this study showed—influence on any given branch of a social network is not necessarily a two-way street.

"Different subsegments of the population react differently to social influence," the authors said. "Such differences suggest that policies tailored for different types of people in different subpopulations will be more effective than policies constructed with only average treatment effects in mind."

DREAMSTIME
Data from digital fitness trackers combined with social network analyses reveal that one person's running habits can influence their friends' running habits.


Healthy Living
A beneficial bean
Studies show that drinking coffee may reduce the risk of developing type 2, or adult onset, diabetes, which affects about 315 million people worldwide.
Health in four cups
Drinking coffee increases blood levels of SHGB, a protein that regulates the hormones testosterone and estrogen, believed to play a part in the development of type 2 diabetes
Women who drank four cups of caffeinated coffee daily had higher levels of SHBG and were less than half as likely as nondrinkers to develop the disease
Source: UCLA News, World Health Organization

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Life & Style

Coppola and 'Godfather' cast reunite at Tribeca Film Fest

NEW YORK (AP)—Debilitating studio battles. One miraculously still cat. Mooning contests between James Caan and Marlon Brando. These were the memories shared, 45 years later, on the making of "The Godfather" in a rare reunion of the film's cast and director Francis Ford Coppola at Radio City Music Hall.

With the stage decorated to resemble the library of Brando's Don Corleone, and a portrait of the actor hanging above, Coppola and cast members Al Pacino, Robert De Niro, Robert Duvall, James Caan, Diane Keaton and Talia Shire, gathered together once again on Saturday. The night was organized by De Niro as the closing evening of his Tribeca Film Festival, which preceded the affair with a grand double feature of "The Godfather," parts one and two.

That made for a long day—the event spanned nearly nine hours—but one of giddy delight for devotees of Coppola's masterpieces.

While both films are widely viewed as among the finest ever made, Coppola and cast spoke again and again about the films' humble origins, when Coppola was a young, untested director, Pacino was an unknown theater actor who the studio, Paramount, was loathe to cast, and few thought the source material—Mario Puzo's best-seller—was the stuff of great cinema.

AP

In this May 22, 2016 file photo, director Francis Ford Coppola poses for photographers as he arrives for the premiere of Verdi's "La Traviata" at the Rome Opera House, in Rome.

Even Coppola, himself.

"I was disappointed in the book when I first read it because it's very long," said Coppola, who called Puzo's book "a bit of a potboiler."

"Much of the book—about a third—is about Lucy Mancini's anatomy," he said.

Coppola's battles over casting Pacino as Michael Corleone have long been Hollywood legend. To help convince the wary studio, Pacino said he did more screen tests—including after he actually got the part—than he could remember. Pacino even suggested Coppola shouldn't fight so hard for him, telling him, "It's OK. We'll work again. There are other things to do."

But Coppola was enamored with Pacino. After meeting him in San Francisco, he couldn't shake the image of Pacino as Corleone. "I just saw his face," said Coppola. "Everywhere we went, all the girls lit up for Al, for some reason."

Still, Pacino was skeptical. "I thought, 'Gee, it's not a really good role," said the now 77-year-old actor of the part that earned him two Oscar nods and made him a movie star. "Sonny is the part I can play," he said, referring to the hot-headed Sonny Corleone, played by Caan. (De Niro, who ended up playing young Don Vito Corleone in Part II, also auditioned for the part of Sonny.)

When the shoot got off to a rocky start, Pacino lost his already shaky faith. "It's over," he remembered thinking. "This is the worst film ever made!"

But Pacino said he was straightened out after a pep talk from Coppola, who showed him early footage of his performance and told the struggling Pacino "to get your chops together."

There were many such stories shared Saturday. All marveled at the cat, roaming nearby, that was thrust into one scene where it calmly burrowed in Brando's lap. After the lengthy wedding scene, Pacino said, he and Keaton "got so loaded, we were on the floor." During the same scene, Duvall said, "We were all mooning each other and Brando took it very seriously."

Brando, of course, wasn't the only one missing Saturday. John Cazale (Fredo) was spoken of frequently, as was cinematographer Gordon Willis.

The event was moderated by Taylor Hackford and live streamed on Facebook. The conversation sometimes got bogged down and some on the panel hardly spoke, as many watching grumbled. De Niro said little until nearly an hour in.

But if it was an imperfect evening, it only highlighted the almost inhumane perfection of the movies Coppola et al produced. Having recently watched the films for the first time in decades, Keaton could hardly contain her amazement.

"Every choice you made was so authentically brilliant," she exclaimed to Coppola. "It's so unusual!"

With time running out, Coppola tried to take questions from the audience, asking for the house lights to be raised and urging audience members to holler out. But after a few questions, a voice announced over the speakers that the night was over and "The Godfather" got the hook.

Coppola and the group gathered together on stage to embrace each other while the crowd, eager for more, took pictures of the legendary "Godfather" team, draped arm in arm.

Absent glitter and Trump, journalists honor press freedom

WASHINGTON (AP)—Prominent Washington journalists, if not Hollywood stars, celebrated the First Amendment during the annual White House Correspondents' Dinner, an event that lacked the glitter of past years because of the absence of the president of the United States.

With President Donald Trump sending his regrets, the attention was no longer focused on an in-person roasting of the commander in chief and his humorous remarks about politics and the press. The red carpet that once featured Oscar winners, TV stars and a few major-league athletes barely turned heads.

Instead, speakers at the dinner promoted press freedom and responsibility and challenged Trump's accusations of dishonest reporting.

The stars of the night were Watergate reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, who recounted what they learned about journalism from their reporting for The Washington Post that helped lead to President Richard Nixon's resignation more than 40 years ago.

"Like politicians and presidents sometimes, perhaps too frequently, we make mistakes and go too far," Woodward said. "When that happens we should own up to it. But the effort today to get this best obtainable version of the truth is largely made in good faith. Mr. President, the media is not 'fake news.'"

The evening was not without humor aimed at the press and Trump.

"We've got to address the elephant that's not in the room," cracked the entertainment headliner, Hasan Minhaj of "The Daily Show" on TV's Comedy Central. "The leader of our country is not here. And that's because he lives in Moscow. It's a very long flight. As for the other guy, I think he's in Pennsylvania because he can't take a joke."

Trump was indeed in Pennsylvania, having scheduled a rally in Harrisburg to mark his 100th day in office. He began his remarks with a lengthy if familiar attack on the news media while dismissing the dinner and its participants.

"A large group of Hollywood actors and Washington media are consoling each other in a hotel ballroom in our nation's capital right now," Trump said. He added: "And I could not possibly be more thrilled than to be more than 100 miles away from Washington's swamp, spending my evening with all of you and with a much, much larger crowd and much better people, right?"

Trump became the first president since Ronald Reagan in 1981 to skip the event-and Reagan was recovering from an assassination attempt.

The official WHCA dinner began in 1921. In recent decades, the event offered Washington's press corps an opportunity to wear black tie and stunning gowns while mixing with celebrity guests. Most people trace that development to 1987, when Baltimore Sun reporter Michael Kelly brought Fawn Hall, the secretary at the center of the Iran-Contra affair.

AP

The Daily Show correspondent Hasan Minhaj stands at the head table during the White House Correspondents' Dinner in Washington, Saturday, April 29, 2017.

Jeff Mason, the WHCA president, said before the event that this year's dinner would have been different even if Trump had attended, "based on the tension that has existed in the relationship and some of the things he has said about the press. We were preparing for a different dinner, either way."

The correspondents' dinner was briefly upstaged Saturday afternoon when late-night TV star Samantha Bee of "Full Frontal" pulled in celebrities for the first "Not the White House Correspondents' Dinner," among them Alysia Reiner of "Orange Is the New Black," Retta of "Parks and Recreation" and Matt Walsh of "Veep."

Bee's taped show, a tongue-in-cheek tribute to American news organizations, featured actor Will Ferrell and other guests roasting Trump and his allies. It singled out the Committee to Protect Journalists, the nonprofit group that will receive proceeds from the broadcast.

Jazmine Sullivan to Beyonce: Let's make lemonade together!

NEW YORK (AP)—R&B singer-songwriter Jazmine Sullivan wants to turn lemons into lemonade with Beyonce.

Sullivan—who has written four tracks on Mary J. Blige's new album, "Strength of a Woman"—said she's hoping to get in the studio and pen a song for Queen Bey.

"I love the way Bey delivers a song and I would love to get something with her because I really think she's good with delivery," she said in an interview with The Associated Press on Thursday about the "Lemonade" singer.

Sullivan has had a hand in writing all of her own hits, including "Bust Your Windows," ''Let It Burn" and "Need U Bad," which reached No. 1 on the Billboard Hot R&B/Hip-Hop songs chart in 2008.

The singer has also written for Jennifer Hudson, Faith Evans, Tamia, Chrisette Michele and Monica, including her 2010 No. 1 hit "Everything to Me." Sullivan also provided vocals to many of the songs on Frank Ocean's 2016 album, "Endless."

Sullivan, 30, said she would also love to write for Lauryn Hill, who recently reached out to wish her a happy birthday.

"She texted me on my birthday. I didn't even know she had my number. I was like, 'Oh my god!'" she recalled. "I was supersurprised to hear from her. But I would love to work and/or write with her."

Sullivan, an 11-time Grammy nominee, last released an album in 2015, which came after a five-year break. She said she wants to release new music, but she isn't rushing herself to make it happen.

"I know people are like, 'When is it coming out? When is it coming out?' And I'm the type of artist that ... can't put work out just to put it out just 'cause it's been a certain amount of time. It's all about authenticity with me and the right time and feeling it," she said. "But creatively, my favorite artist right now is Anderson.Paak, so I'm probably going to be doing a lot of stuff with him."

AP

In this combination photo, Beyonce performs at the 59th annual Grammy Awards on Feb. 12, 2017, in Los Angeles, left, and Jazmine Sullivan appears at 2016 Black Girls Rock! on April, 1, 2016 in Newark, N.J.

Maroon 5, Usher, Alabama Shakes headline Jazz Fest Day 2

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Performances by Maroon 5, the Alabama Shakes, and Usher & The Roots brought crowd-pleasing rock, blues and R&B to the second day of the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, while jazz clarinetist Pete Fountain earned a special place in the event's history.

Fountain, a festival favorite who died Aug. 6 at the age of 86, was recognized Saturday with the unveiling of a larger-than-life hand-painted portrait in the ancestor area, memorializing those who have helped shape the festival since it began in 1970.

"Welcome back, Pete," said Quint Davis, director and producer of the festival, as the portrait was unveiled.

"There's been Fats Domino. There has been Mahalia Jackson. There has been Louis Armstrong," Davis said. "There have been very few great, great men who have carried the banner of New Orleans around the world through music. And one of those men is Pete Fountain."

Kicking off with "Lily of the Valley," members of the Half Fast Marching Club, which Fountain founded, and the Storyville Stompers Brass Band led a second-line there from the Economy Hall Tent, where Fountain last performed in 2013.

AP

Adam Levine, left, and James Valentine of Maroon 5 perform at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival on Saturday, April 29, 2017, in New Orleans.

Two other "ancestors" also are being honored this year.

Gospel singer Jo "Cool" Davis, who died Aug. 5, 2016, will be celebrated Sunday at 1:30 p.m. with an a cappella performance by The Zion Harmonizers. Zydeco musician Stanley "Buckwheat" Dural Jr., who died Sept. 24, 2016, will be honored May 6 with a parade at 11:45 a.m. and a performance by Zydeco accordionist Nathan Williams Jr.

NOLA.com/The Times-Picayune reports (http://bit.ly/2phR3Gl) the wooden painting of Fountain was draped in gold.

"We want to thank you Quint for honoring Pete as an ancestor. He's here with some great friends," said Benny Harrell, Fountain's son-in-law and longtime manager.

Davis corrected Harrell warmly: "Thank you Benny, but you've really got that backward. It's an honor for the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival to have been associated with Pete Fountain."

The seven-day festival takes place over two weekends. In addition to the big-name acts, the festival features hundreds of Louisiana jazz, gospel, zydeco and other musical acts.

Ohio family surprised when Mark Zuckerberg comes to dinner

NEWTON FALLS, Ohio (AP)—An Ohio family says they learned just 20 minutes before dinner this week that a planned mystery guest would be Facebook founder and billionaire Mark Zuckerberg.

The Vindicator of Youngstown reports Zuckerberg dined Friday with the Moore family in Newton Falls, about 55 miles (89 kilometers) southeast of Cleveland. The newspaper reports Zuckerberg had asked his staff to find Democrats who voted for President Donald Trump.

AP

In this April 18, 2017 file photo, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg speaks at his company's annual F8 developer conference in San Jose, Calif.

Not all the dinner chat was political. Daniel Moore says he and his wife, Lisa, talked about their work with an orphanage in Uganda and that Zuckerberg says he's now planning a fundraiser to benefit the orphans.

Zuckerberg's project, the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, says he visited Youngstown's Eastern Gateway Community College Friday and met with people recovering from opioid addiction in Dayton Saturday. He has challenged himself to visit people in all 50 states.

Friend suffering seizures plans to elude driving restrictions

DEAR ABBY: I'm acquainted with a woman who has been experiencing seizures for several years and, because of the seizures, has been restricted from driving. She drove her son to school a couple of years ago (he had missed the bus) and ran into a brick mailbox, totaling her car.

She now wants to be able to drive and has said she will not tell her doctor about recent seizures. Isn't this potentially dangerous?

RESTRICTED DRIVING IN KENTUCKY

DEAR RESTRICTED DRIVING: Of course it's dangerous! It is also irresponsible and indefensible.

Periodically, we hear in the media about tragedies that happened because someone had a seizure and drove into a restaurant, a shop window, etc. For someone with an illness that could endanger the lives of passengers, pedestrians and other innocent people to get behind the wheel of a vehicle is selfish and unconscionable.

Encourage her to talk to her doctor about adjusting or changing her medication. And remind her that if she were to cause another accident, and it was discovered that she was driving in spite of being restricted, that she could not only kill people, she could also be prosecuted criminally and civilly.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Whenever I give my longtime friend a gift, her immediate reaction is to tell me, "Oh, no." Then she immediately offers to give me money for the gift.

When I give someone a gift, it is because I like that person and am excited to give them something I think they would like. When she tells me I shouldn't have done it and keeps asking how much money she owes me, I feel very hurt.

Now her daughter, whom I consider like my family, has learned it from her mom and does the same thing when I give her a gift. Abby, why do they react that way? I always give from my heart.

GIFT GIVER IN TEXAS

DEAR GIFT GIVER: I suspect your friend learned this behavior the way her daughter has—from her mother. You might ask your friend to explain why she does this when you give her a gift, because her reaction is peculiar. (Could it be she feels unworthy?) Because you know that receiving gifts makes her uncomfortable, my advice is to quit giving her things.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have a girlfriend. We have been dating for almost two months. We both love each other so much and think we are the perfect match. But she is going to high school and I'm a year younger, which puts me in eighth grade. We live close to each other, so we see each other on the weekends.

She has been accepted to an amazingly good school, but it's in downtown. What should we do? Should we keep our relationship or leave it if we won't be able to see each other as often?

TEENS IN LOVE

DEAR TEENS: If I TOLD you to break up because in a few months you and this girl won't be able to see each other as often, would you do it? I don't think so! What I do suggest is that the two of you let this play out. Enjoy each other for now, and in the fall, if your feelings—or hers—change, discuss it then.

■■■

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

WE'RE SUPPOSED TO HAVE THIS WHOLE STUPID BOOK READ BY TOMORROW.
FLIP-IP-IP-IP-IP-IP!
THERE! IT'S GOOD TO GET THAT OUT OF THE WAY!
READING GOES FASTER IF YOU DON'T SWEAT COMPREHENSION.
WHERE'S THE FRISBEE?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

CLAYTON. I'M JUST SO EXCITED FOR YOU.
FOR THE MONSTER STUFF?
THIS THING IS HUGE! THE SKY'S THE LIMIT! THERE'S GOLD IN THEM THERE MONSTERS!
YEAH, BUT I'M BORED WITH IT. I THINK I'LL REFOCUS ON PLAYING VIDEOGAMES AND WATCHING YOUTUBE VIDEOS.
DID YOU JUST HEAR A WAIL AND A DEEP SOB?
IT SOUNDED LIKE HOPES BEING DASHED.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

ANOTHER BASEBALL SEASON. HOW DO YOU THINK WE'LL DO?
PRETTY WELL IF WE CAN STAY HEALTHY.
TELL ME THAT WASN'T OUR PITCHER WHO JUST TRIPPED OVER THE GATORADE COOLER AND IS NOW LYING UNCONSCIOUS.
UH-OH.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

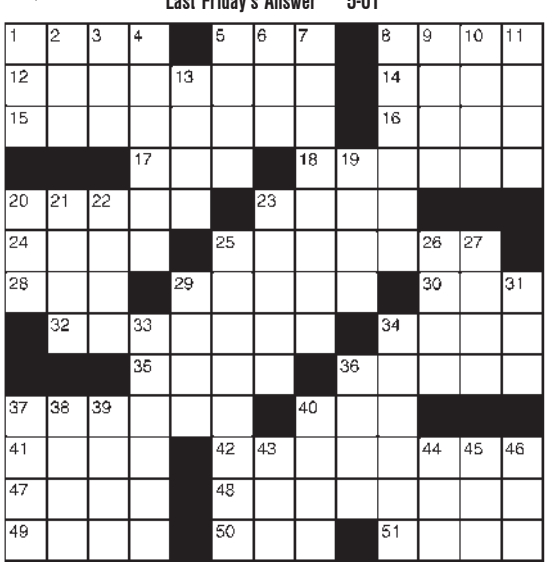
ACROSS
1 "Ditto"
5 "Gee, ya think?"
8 Faucet problem
12 "Madam Secretary" actress
14 Shakespearean villain
15 "Batman" publisher
16 Seth's son
17 Set (down)
18 Lampoon
20 Medical breakthroughs
23 Daly of "Judging Amy"
24 Burden
25 Celebpromoting agencies
28 Huge
29 London — (beef dish)
30 Granola morsel
32 "The Waste Land" poet
34 Like ganders
35 Cavort
36 Gave as an example
37 Vienna's river
40 Gore and Franken
41 "The jig —!"
42 Bug on a highway
47 Riga resident
48 Treedwelling
49 Colleen
50 Caustic solution
51 Evergreens

DOWN
1 Norm (Abbr.)
2 NRC predecessor
3 Buddy
4 Runs off to wed
5 "Act now!"
6 Dad's bro
7 Temper tantrum
8 Good loser?
9 Hindu royal
10 Composer Stravinsky
11 Sit for a photo
13 Flightless birds
19 Blue dye source
20 Corn core
21 Squad
22 Carpets
23 Scout unit
25 Ancient
26 Castle defense
27 Auction
29 Amorphous sci-fi villain
31 Actor Danson
33 Blows one's top
34 Wretchedness
36 Nile queen, familiarly
37 Pickling herb
38 On the briny
39 Crazy
40 French cleric
43 Like some humor
44 Casual shirt
45 Attorney's field
46 Golf's Ernie

Solution time: 28 mins.

P	A	C	■	S	A	M	E	■	E	L	L	S
E	G	O	■	I	N	O	N	■	L	E	I	A
W	O	R	D	G	A	M	E	■	P	A	N	G
■	■	■	D	A	N	G	■	K	A	F	K	A
O	M	E	N	S	■	P	A	N	S	■	■	■
S	E	L	A	■	G	A	M	E	O	V	E	R
H	O	I	■	C	L	L	I	E	■	E	L	O
A	W	A	Y	G	A	M	E	■	P	H	I	L
■	■	■	A	L	M	A	■	A	R	I	S	E
G	I	M	M	E	■	■	A	V	E	C	■	■
I	D	E	A	■	G	A	M	E	P	L	A	N
B	O	S	H	■	E	W	E	R	■	E	V	E
E	■	S	A	■	L	E	N	T	■	S	A	W

Last Friday's Answer 5-01



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touchtone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Wes Anderson, 48; Tim McGraw, 50; Joanna Lumley, 71; Judy Collins, 78.

Happy Birthday: Let your imagination lead you into unfamiliar territory this year. Embrace life and make a point to focus on your dreams, hopes and wishes. The future looks bright. A little effort will take you a long way. Don't feel the need to share your plans with anyone before you are ready. Once you feel comfortable and confident, your presentation will be well received. Your numbers are 1, 5, 13, 24, 32, 39, 42.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Curb any emotional feelings until you have time to consider all the ins and outs of a situation. The less impulsive you are, the better. Stay focused on your responsibilities and refuse to let excessive spending take over. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* You are in the zone and ready to take on the world. Embrace life and make adjustments to your lifestyle that will accommodate your plans. The future begins now, so stop procrastinating and start turning your dream into a reality. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Before you take charge, make sure your motives are honorable. Charm alone will not get you what you want. An intelligent backup to your plan will help you seal any deal you want to negotiate. Don't let your emotions interfere. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Calm down and make the most of your day. Getting upset over something you can't change is fruitless. Put your energy into work, productivity and creative solutions. Simple acts of kindness will encourage more of the same. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* If you must make changes, do so for the right reasons. Common sense, not emotional madness, should be behind every move you consider. Overreacting and making assumptions will put you in a predicament that could be difficult to back out of. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Fast talk will get you into trouble. Don't be too willing to say "yes" to a plea for help until you find out exactly what's expected of you and why. Being put in a compromising position will detract from your personal progress. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* You'll be prone to take on too much if you don't take the time to consider what's actually in your best interests. Make careful decisions and don't be impulsive. A physical challenge will help clear your mind. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Investigate your options and you'll discover a way to turn something that interests you into a viable solution to any foreseeable problem that you might encounter along the way. You'll attract unusual input from someone you least expect. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Emotions and finances won't be a good mix. You won't be thinking clearly when dealing with children, money or personal contracts. If you want change, consider altering your appearance or your lifestyle. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Don't venture too far from home. You'll get more done if you take care of domestic responsibilities. Venturing out and interacting with others will result in unnecessary financial and emotional costs. Avoid making impulsive decisions that can cause problems with institutions. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Get rid of emotional debt. Let go of whatever is stifling your desire to explore new beginnings. Rely on your intelligence to help you make choices that will improve your personal life. Reliability and moderation will keep you moving forward. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Trust your intuition and question what others tell you. Avoid anyone showing signs of inconsistency or looking for someone to take over his or her responsibilities. Offer help to those in need, not those trying to use you. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are original, sensitive and loving. You are outgoing and assertive.

Eugenia's websites -- eugenialast.com for Ask Eugenia, daily timing and compatibility services, and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

4	8	3	5	7	9	6	2	1
1	5	6	2	8	4	7	3	9
2	7	9	3	6	1	4	5	8
8	4	1	9	2	3	5	6	7
9	2	5	7	1	6	8	4	3
3	6	7	4	5	8	1	9	2
6	3	8	1	4	2	9	7	5
7	1	2	6	9	5	3	8	4
5	9	4	8	3	7	2	1	6

Difficulty Level ★ 5:01

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

1	2	4	3	9	8	7	6	5
3	7	8	2	5	6	1	9	4
6	5	9	7	4	1	8	2	3
9	6	5	1	2	4	3	8	7
7	8	3	9	6	5	4	1	2
2	4	1	8	7	3	9	5	6
5	9	6	4	8	7	2	3	1
8	3	7	5	1	2	6	4	9
4	1	2	6	3	9	5	7	8

Difficulty level ★★★★ 4:28

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

DO YOU MAKE REPAIRS? Solution: 6 letters

G	T	R	I	A	H	C	P	O	T	H	O	L	E	S
N	N	E	O	P	H	O	N	E	S	S	E	R	I	T
I	E	I	A	T	T	O	I	L	E	T	Z	D	N	F
R	M	F	R	P	A	Ⓒ	S	R	E	X	I	M	I	O
O	U	I	A	I	P	N	Ⓐ	C	R	N	P	X	A	O
O	R	L	R	F	A	L	R	Ⓡ	G	K	P	A	T	R
L	T	P	E	U	A	P	I	E	Ⓢ	A	E	C	N	E
F	S	M	P	R	R	V	E	A	T	E	R	L	I	H
A	N	A	M	N	T	E	A	R	N	L	C	O	A	S
U	I	S	U	I	S	R	T	C	E	C	A	C	M	A
C	S	S	B	T	S	E	A	S	U	V	E	K	D	W
E	L	L	S	U	T	B	K	I	A	U	I	S	R	H
T	O	I	O	R	L	C	K	I	N	O	M	S	Y	S
S	O	A	F	E	E	T	A	O	B	S	T	S	E	I
J	T	N	A	D	B	S	Y	A	W	E	V	I	R	D

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Alarms, Alternator, Amplifier, Appliances, Belts, Bikes, Boat, Bumper, Cable, Cars, Chair, Clocks, Decks, Dishwasher, Driveways, Dryer, Faucet, Fix, Flooring, Furniture, Instrument, Joists, Laptop, Leak, Maintain, Mixers, Nails, Phones, Potholes, Repairing, Revise, Roof, Siding, Sofa, Tires, Toaster, Toilet, Tools, Trains, Vacuums, Zipper

Last Friday's Answer: Hippopotamus

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2K m2 18 Unit Apartment Complex Chalan Kanoa
25K m2 Land Navy Hill Ocean View
25K m2 Land As Matuis Ocean View
22K m2 Land Dan Dan Ocean View
145K m2 Land Papago Ocean View
10K m2 Land Papago Ocean View
20K m2 Land Lau Lau Bay Ocean View
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Celtics' Thomas expected back for Game 1 vs Wizards

WALTHAM, Mass. (AP)—The already short break between rounds of the NBA playoffs won't provide much of a rest for Boston Celtics point guard Isaiah Thomas.

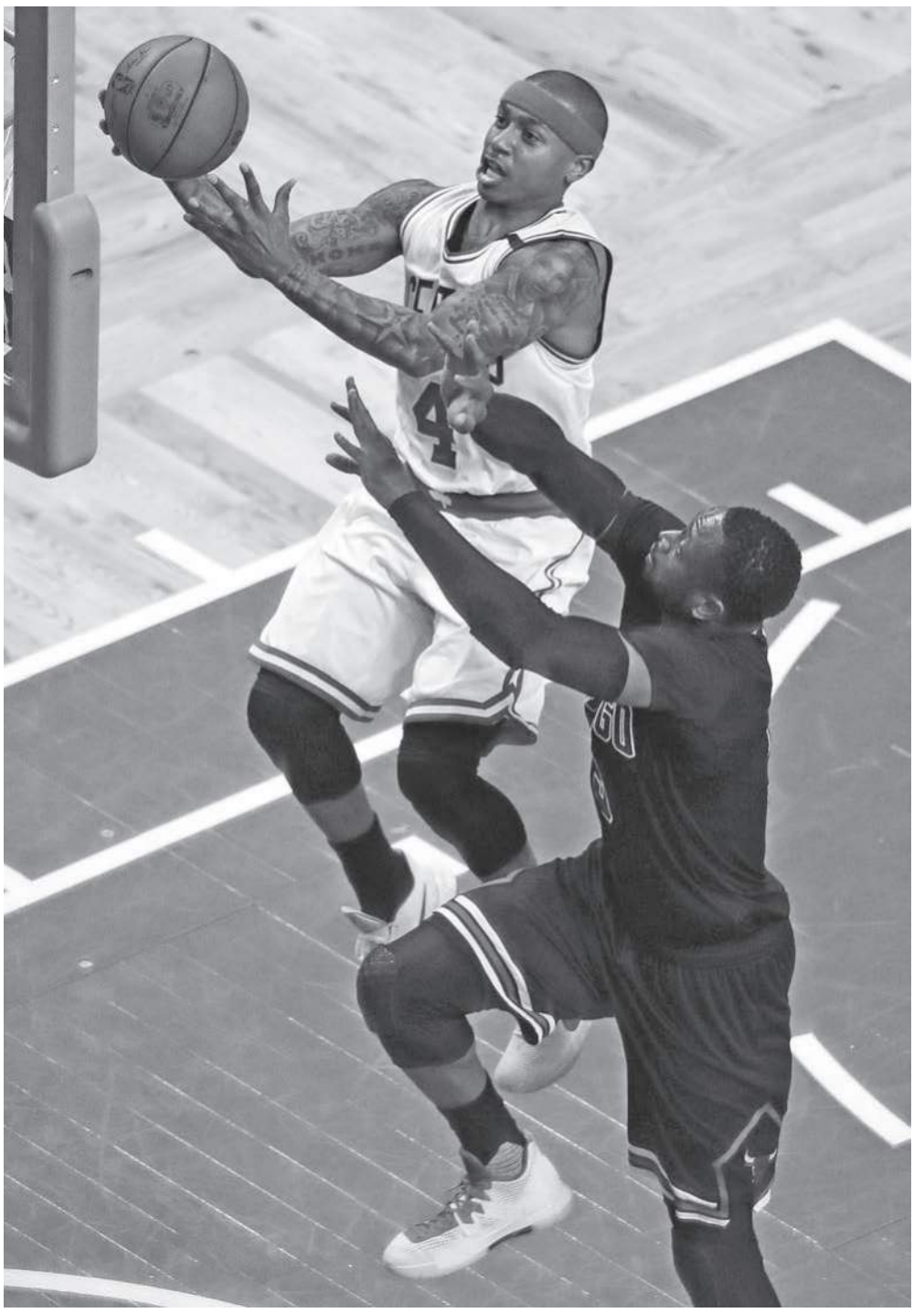
Thomas left from the Celtics' first-round series-clinching victory over Chicago on Friday night to fly to Tacoma, Washington, and attend his sister's funeral. He was expected to fly cross-country and arrive in Boston early Sunday morning, in time to play in the 1 p.m. start of Game 1 of the Eastern Conference semifinals against the Wizards.

"It's hard to think about how he feels right now," Celtics coach Brad Stevens said on Saturday, the only off-day between rounds, after the rest of the team went through a film session and walkthrough.

Stevens said he and the rest of the team would have accompanied Thomas for support if there had been no game on Sunday. Instead, president of basketball operations Danny Ainge and assistant coach Jerome Allen went with Thomas.

"I know it's going to be hard on him," guard Avery Bradley said. "But we're going to make sure we're here for him and we're prepared. I'm sure he's going to be prepared for the game."

Thomas scored 12 points but played only 25 minutes in the 105-83 victory over the Bulls on Friday night, when Boston eliminated Chicago and advanced in the NBA playoffs for the first time since 2012.That earned then a second-round matchup with the Wizards, who eliminated the Atlanta Hawks in six games on Friday night.



AP

Boston Celtics guard Isaiah Thomas (4) drives to the basket against Chicago Bulls guard Dwyane Wade during the first quarter of a first-round NBA playoff basketball game in Boston, Wednesday, April 26, 2017.

The Celtics and Wizards split their regular-season matchups—several of them turning testy.

Here are some things to look for in the series:

The Celtics and Wizards have been brewing an increasingly bitter rivalry since last year, when Boston swept the season series.

In a mid-January game, Celtics forward Jae Crowder drew a technical for jawing with the Washington bench and then-coach Randy Wittman. Boston's Marcus Smart broke Bradley Beal's nose and gave him a concussion while going up for a layup.

In the offseason, Crowder disparaged the Wizards in the effort to recruit Al Horford, who was also being courted by Washington but signed with the Celtics. Then, in the first matchup this season, Wizards guard John Wall was ejected for knocking Smart to the ground.

After the game, the teams exchanged words and Crowder wound up wagging his finger in Wall's face. Police officers were summoned to the hallway between the locker rooms to make sure the situation didn't get out of control. (Crowder was fined $25,000 and Wall $15,000.)

Two weeks later, the Wizards showed up in all-black—dressed for a funeral, Wall said.

"It's playoff basketball. Everybody wants to win," Smart said on Saturday. "If you're not passionate about it, don't bother doing it."

Washington has not reached the conference finals since drafting Wall with the first overall pick in the 2010 draft. Now in his fifth season teamed up with Beal, the Wizards backcourt is developing into the pair they had always envisioned.

Wall and Beal averaged 55 points and 12.5 assists per game in the series against Atlanta. Beal he could tell at the shootaround before Game 6 that Wall was ready to finish off the Hawks.

Larry Bird steps down as Pacers president

INDIANA (AP)—Larry Bird started the week by driving an IndyCar down Fifth Avenue in Manhattan to stump for the NBA's All-Star weekend returning to Indiana.

He ended it by stepping down as president of basketball operations for the Pacers, a stunningly abrupt decision that has become a hallmark of the NBA great's post-playing career.

Bird made the call Friday and general manager Kevin Pritchard will be elevated to take his place, a person with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the team has not announced the move, which was first reported by Yahoo! Sports.

Bird leaves the Pacers ahead of a pivotal summer in which the franchise will have to decide what to do with star forward Paul George. He can become a free agent after next season and there is wide speculation he would prefer to play for the Los Angeles Lakers. The Pacers will have to decide whether to try to persuade him to stay long term or trade him.

With that potentially franchise-changing scenario pending, Bird is stepping down from a major role with the Pacers for a third time.

His quick exit follows a pattern for Bird. When the Hall of Famer makes up his mind, that's it.

"Larry is very special, tremendous integrity," Pacers owner Herb Simon told The Indianapolis Star this month. "His word means something."

Boston Celtics coach Brad Stevens didn't know Bird well but is a longtime admirer.

"I thought he did a tremendous job as a coach and a front office person in Indiana when I was (at Butler)," Stevens said before Friday's game at Chicago. "The runs they went on for all the years he was there was really impressive. So whatever he chooses to do I look forward to and certainly all wish him the best."

Bird coached the Pacers from 1997-2000, leading them to the NBA Finals in 2000 before walking away from the job after applying a long-held theory that a coach's effectiveness is diminished after three or four years on the job.

He returned as team president in 2003, helping construct a club that was among the best in the league, won 61 games and advanced to the Eastern Conference finals in 2003-04. That team fell apart the following season after the "Malice at the Palace," the ugly scene in Detroit in which players Ron Artest, Stephen Jackson and Jermaine O'Neal fought with Pistons fans.

The French Lick, Indiana, native methodically reshaped the team into a contender again, building a promising core around George and Danny Granger and helping to mold Lance Stephenson from a troublemaker into a force. He was named NBA executive of the year in 2012, then stepped down a few months later.

Bird hinted at the time that health played a role in his decision then, and he stayed away for a year before returning as the Pacers' top executive. With Frank Vogel as his coach, the Pacers reached the conference finals in 2013 and 2014 with a new core of George, Stephenson and Roy Hibbert.

Bird did not renew Vogel's contract after last season and installed Nate McMillan as his coach. The Pacers were swept out of the first round this season by the Cleveland Cavaliers, a major point of frustration for George, one of the league's most versatile stars.

Wade future with Bulls hinges on course set by front office

CHICAGO (AP)—Dwyane Wade wasn't ready to make any declarations about his future with the Chicago Bulls.

The 12-time All-Star and three-time champion is waiting for management to set the direction of the franchise. Then he'll make up his mind: Stay with his hometown team for $23.8 million or look elsewhere.

"I don't need to ring chase, but I can," he said on Saturday. "It's a great luxury to have if I want to do. Or I can be a part of passing down my knowledge to younger players."

Wade's contract option is one of the biggest issues hanging over the Bulls as they head into the offseason following a 41-win season and first-round playoff exit against Boston, though it's not at the top of the list.

Jimmy Butler has a comfortable spot there. The Bulls need to decide if they're going to build with him or go all in on a tear-down and trade one of the league's best two-way players.

They also have a contract option on Rajon Rondo and need to build a roster that suits the more open offense coach Fred Hoiberg prefers.

As much as anything, perhaps, they need to settle on a clear direction. The Bulls tried to walk the line between staying competitive and getting younger last season, and it led to a .500 season and an exit in Game 6 after they made the playoffs on a tiebreaker.

Here are some things to know as Chicago sets its offseason course.

The Jimmy Butler Rumor Season figures to be an active one.

Butler's name has been coming up in trade talk for a year with Boston mentioned as a possible destination. But the Bulls could also make a strong case for building with him.

Butler met with management on Saturday but declined to speak to the media.

Wade wants to hear a defined direction for the organization from management.

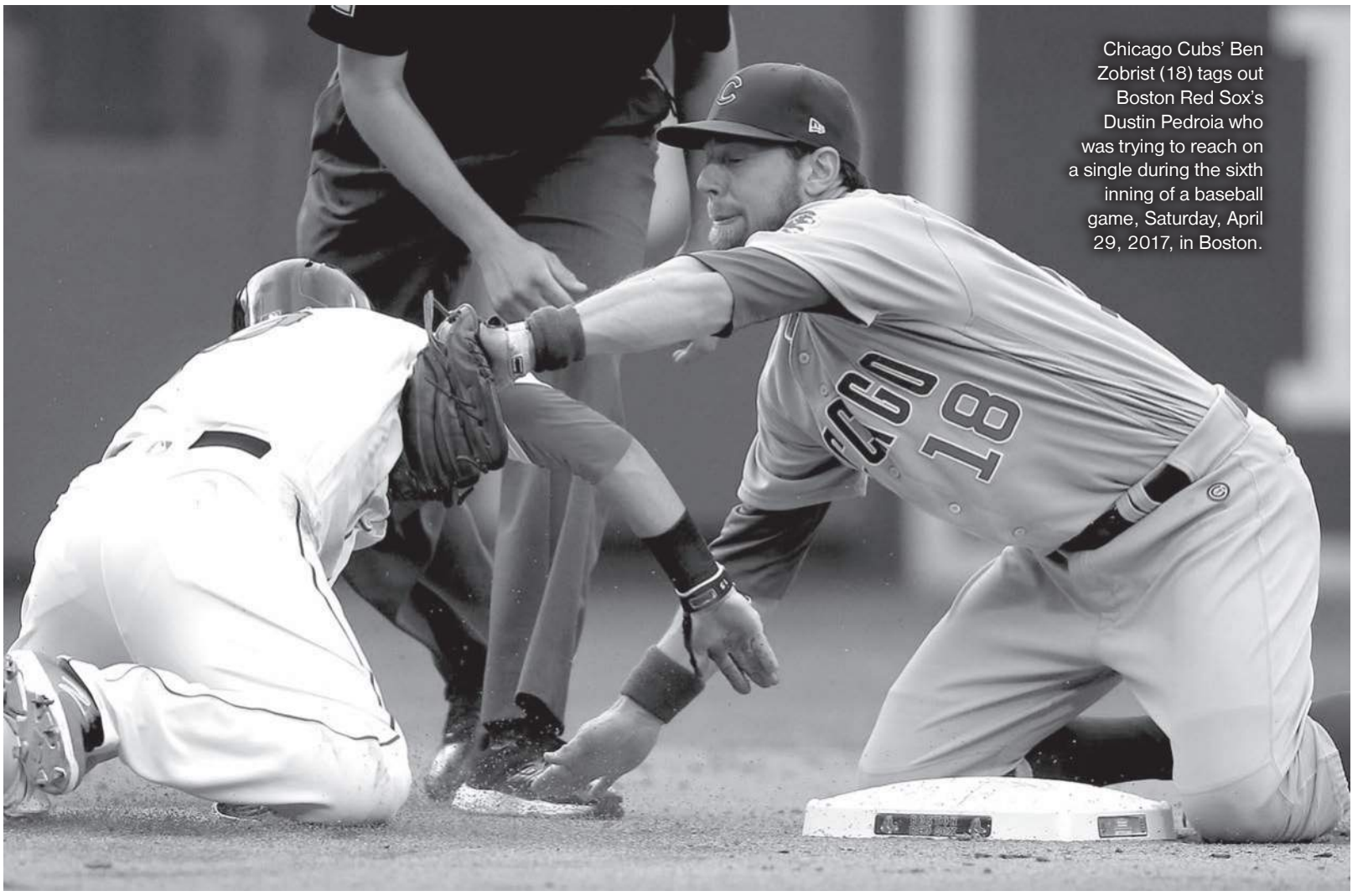
He plans to meet with Bulls executives John Paxson and Gar Forman in a few weeks and will then figure out whether to exercise his contract option or look elsewhere. The Bulls' intentions with Butler will be "a huge component" in his decision but not the only one.

Wade could be staring at limited options or a huge pay cut if he decides to leave. But he also might have an opportunity to play for a contender.

Either way, he insisted he has no regrets about the two-year deal he signed to leave Miami last summer for his hometown team.

"The biggest thing is I came here and I was embraced," Wade said. "Not only by the city, by up top. I was embraced by the coaches, the players, and it was some good moments and some bad moments, just like every season. But I don't regret my decision at all."

Cubs hit three homers to rally past Red Sox



Chicago Cubs' Ben Zobrist (18) tags out Boston Red Sox's Dustin Pedroia who was trying to reach on a single during the sixth inning of a baseball game, Saturday, April 29, 2017, in Boston.

BOSTON (AP)—The Chicago Cubs adjusted quickly to Steven Wright's knuckleball.

Anthony Rizzo hit a two-run homer, and Miguel Montero had a solo shot off Wright, helping the Cubs rebound from a series-opening loss with a 7-4 victory over the Boston Red Sox on Saturday.

"I thought we did a nice job. It's just awkward hitting against the knuckleball," Cubs manager Joe Maddon said. "There is no real training ground for it. You don't necessarily get a guy out there throwing a knuckleball in BP."

All the Cubs faced Wright for the first time.

After collecting just one single in the first three innings, Rizzo's homer started Chicago's comeback from a 3-0 deficit. Montero's shot tied it in the seventh.

"It's just hard. You really don't know what to look for," Montero said before joking "I told the umpire I'm going to close my eyes and swing hard in case I hit it."

Ben Zobrist added a solo homer, and Kris Bryant had two hits and scored twice for Chicago, backing a decent start by former Red Sox righty John Lackey.

Lackey (2-3) gave up four runs in six innings, snapping his string of losses in three straight starts. He was part of Boston's 2013 World Series title team.

Lackey said he texted former teammate Dustin Pedroia on the way to the ballpark.

Hanley Ramirez and Andrew Benintendi had solo homers for the Red Sox, who have the majors' fewest homers. Boston's streak of nine straight interleague wins in Fenway Park was snapped.

Wright (1-3) gave up five runs and seven hits in 6 1/3 innings.

"I think with the exception of the 0-2 slow knuckleball that Steven threw to Rizzo, this was his best knuckleball that he's had to date," Red Sox manager John Farrell said.

Wright has given up nine homers after allowing only 12 last season.

"I felt a lot better today overall," he said. "The one pitch I wish I could get back was that 0-2 pitch to Rizzo. I was trying to get it a little bit more in front of the plate and it kind of stood up a little bit and he made me pay."

Wade Davis pitched the ninth for his sixth save.

With summer-like temperatures for the second straight day and a marquee matchup with the defending champs, there was added buzz around the ballpark hours before the game.

Mixed in the fans flocking around Fenway were numerous Cubs fans wearing jerseys -- many with "Sandberg," ''Bryant" or "Rizzo" on the back. There was a loud "Let's Go Cubbies!" in the ninth, and that was followed by some large ''W" flags after the Cubs won—a staple in Wrigley Field.

The Cubs overcame a 4-2 deficit with a run in the sixth inning and three in a seventh that was highlighted by two errors on one play.

Zobrist's run-scoring grounder sliced it to 4-3. Montero homered leading off the seventh against Wright before Kyle Schwarber's RBI single pushed them ahead.

Red Sox shortstop Xander Bogaerts threw the ball away for an error on Rizzo's fielder's choice, allowing Schwarber to score. First baseman Mitch Moreland retrieved and fired it into left field.

Jackie Bradley Jr.'s RBI single made it 1-0 in the second.

Benintendi had a sacrifice fly and Ramirez belted his homer over the Green Monster seats completely out of Fenway, a shot estimated at 469 feet, in the third.

Bryant opened the fourth with a hard single and Rizzo followed with his drive to the back of Chicago's bullpen.

Benintendi hit his homer over Boston's bullpen.

Rangers 6, Angels 3

In Arlington, Carlos Gomez hit for the cycle for the second time and Yu Darvish pitched six effective innings, helping the Texas Rangers beat the Los Angeles Angels.

Darvish (3-2) allowed one earned run, struck out 10 and walked four, finishing with 125 pitches. He fell five pitches short of his major league high, thrown as a rookie in 2013.

Braves 11, Brewers 3

In Milwaukee, Matt Kemp homered three times and drove in five runs, powering the Braves to their fourth straight victory.

Atlanta collected a season-high 20 hits. Dansby Swanson also homered, and Jaime Garcia (1-1) pitched six innings for his first win with the Braves.

Dodgers 6, Phillies 5

In Los Angeles, Yasiel Puig, Cody Bellinger and Justin Turner hit consecutive homers off Hector Neris in the ninth, helping the Dodgers rally for the win.

Los Angeles trailed 5-2 before the three straight homers. It was the first time the team had accomplished the feat since Aug. 18, 2012.

Yankees 12, Orioles 4

In New York, Brett Gardner homered twice from the leadoff spot, helping the Yankees earn their fourth straight victory.

Gardner collected his first four RBI of the season. Austin Romine, the No. 9 batter, also went deep and knocked in five runs.

New York won for the 14th time in 17 games, boosting the American League's best record to 15-7.

Pirates 4, Marlins 0

In Miami, Ivan Nova pitched a three-hitter in Pittsburgh's third straight win.

John Jaso homered and drove in two runs for the Pirates, and Jordy Mercer also knocked in a run.

Nova (3-2) struck out seven and did not walk a batter in the 95-pitch masterpiece. He retired 11 in a row at one point.

Miami has lost four in a row.

Mets 5, Nationals 3

In Washington, Michael Conforto hit two home runs and slumping Jose Reyes also connected, leading the Mets to the victory.

The banged-up Mets had lost six in a row when they began this series at Nationals Park against the team with the best record in the majors. Behind their power and bullpen, the Mets beat Washington for the second straight day.

Hansel Robles (4-0) came in to start the sixth and retired five of the six batters he faced, striking out four. Jerry Blevins then took over and fanned Bryce Harper.

Carlos Estevez (3-0) got the win with one scoreless inning and Greg Holland earned his 11th save for the Rockies, who have won the first two games of the three-game set between the top teams in the NL West.

White Sox 6, Tigers 4, 10 innings

In Detroit, Melky Cabrera led off the 10th inning with a homer against Justin Wilson and Avisail Garcia added an RBI triple, lifting the White Sox to their sixth straight win.

Jose Abreu homered twice in his return to the lineup for Chicago.

Detroit has lost four in a row.

The White Sox held onto a two-run lead in the 10th with David Robertson (1-0) making the most of a chance to pitch a second inning after losing a two-run advantage in the ninth.

Indians 4, Mariners 3

In Cleveland, Danny Salazar got off to a rocky start, and then combined with two Cleveland relievers to hold Seattle hitless over the final eight innings.

Salazar (2-2) gave up a double to Robinson Cano in the first, followed by homers on successive pitches to Nelson Cruz and Kyle Seager.

Salazar struck out six in 6 1/3 innings. Andrew Miller struck out four in 1 2/3 innings and Cody Allen pitched a perfect ninth for his sixth save.

Rockies 7, Diamondbacks 6

In Phoenix, Mark Reynolds hit a tying two-run single with two out in the ninth and Carlos Gonzalez scored the winning run on a wild pitch by Fernando Rodney, sending the Rockies to a wild comeback win.

Colorado trailed by five after five, but made the most of another rough performance by Rodney (1-2). The veteran reliever walked two and threw two wild pitches in blowing his second consecutive save chance.

Padres 12, Giants 4

In San Francisco, Wil Myers capped San Diego's eight-run sixth inning with a three-run homer.

Myers also singled off Chris Stratton (0-1) to start the big inning and had three hits for the game. San Diego scored 11 runs against the Giants' bullpen following five effective innings from San Francisco starter Matt Cain.

Athletics 2, Astros 1

In Houston, Khris Davis clubbed his 10th home run to back a solid start by Andrew Triggs, and Oakland snapped a five-game skid.

The Athletics ended a 10-game losing streak against the Astros, which was the longest in franchise history against Houston.

Jed Lowrie put Oakland up 1-0 in the fourth with a homer to right field off Joe Musgrove (1-2), and Davis gave the Athletics an insurance run when he connected against Will Harris with two outs in the eighth.

Blue Jays 4, Rays 1

In Toronto, Justin Smoak had three hits, including a two-run homer, and the Blue Jays snapped a three-game losing streak.

Smoak went 3 for 3 and scored twice.

Toronto's Francisco Liriano (2-2) allowed one run and four hits in five-plus innings. Roberto Osuna got three outs finished for his second save.

Tampa Bay right-hander Matt Andriese (1-1) gave up four runs in seven innings.

Raiders go heavy on defensive players

ALAMEDA, Calif. (AP)— It was no surprise where the Oakland Raiders paid most attention in the NFL draft.

After his team struggled last season on defense and then made most of its pre-draft offseason additions on offense, general manager Reggie McKenzie went heavy on defensive players in the draft.

Oakland used its top three picks on defenders to strengthen the secondary and interior line before finally addressing its most glaring need by drafting Wake Forest inside linebacker Marquel Lee with a fifth-round pick Saturday.

In all, the Raiders used six of their nine picks on defensive players, with Lee, first-round cornerback Gareon Conley, second-round safety Obi Melifonwu and third-round defensive tackle Eddie Vanderdoes all expected to press for significant playing time.

"The way it fell, we got a lot of players at the end of the day that it looks like we needed," McKenzie said. "We feel like we got a lot of good players with huge talent levels."

The Raiders needed plenty of help on defense after finishing near the bottom of the league in all significant categories last season. Oakland finished last in the league with 25 sacks, allowed more 20 yard receptions than any team and gave up 4.5 yards per carry.

Here are some other takeaways from the draft:

FILLING A NEED

Lee fills perhaps the biggest need on Oakland's roster as a middle linebacker who can help shore up the run defense. Perry Riley played that role last season but is a free agent and has not signed a deal. The Raiders haven't added anyone else at that spot and hope Lee can do the job. He had 20 tackles for loss last season and is expected to compete right away with Ben Heeney for a starting spot.

AP

Fans cheer before the Oakland Raiders fourth round draft pick during an NFL football draft event Saturday, April 29, 2017, in Las Vegas.

RISK-REWARD

The first two days of the draft were about balancing risk and reward. Oakland used its first-round pick on Conley, who was recently accused of rape but has not been charged. Conley says he has passed a lie detector test and will meet with police Monday in Cleveland. The Raiders said they researched the situation and felt comfortable taking a player who might have been off the board without the accusations.

Oakland took a different risk in the third round with Vanderdoes, who struggled keeping his weight down last season and was not overly impressive on film. Vanderdoes has lost 40 pounds since the end of the season and Oakland believes it will get the player who was much more impressive early in his career.

DAY THREE

The Raiders started day three by taking Florida left tackle David Sharpe in the fourth round. There were questions raised about Sharpe's vision after a report that he was legally blind in his right eye. Sharpe denied the report but said he does have blurry vision out of that eye because of a cataract removal when he was a kid.

"I've been battling that since I was young. But it doesn't affect my play or vision or anything," he said. "I'm not blind."

McKenzie finished the day with four seventh-round picks after dealing a sixth-rounder to Arizona for two picks in the final round. Oakland tool Washington State safety Shalom Luani, Alabama State tackle Jylan Ware, North Carolina running back Elijah Hood and Toledo defensive tackle Treyvon Hester.

BEAST MODE

Perhaps the biggest acquisition in draft week by the Raiders came the day before picks started to be made. Oakland swapped 2018 draft picks with Seattle on Wednesday to acquire formerly retired running back and Oakland native Marshawn Lynch. If Lynch can regain the form he had before retiring following the 2015 season, the Raiders will have the power back they need to team with smaller backs Jalen Richard and DeAndre Washington.

"There's going to be questions about how much is left in his tank and things like that, and we're going to find out," coach Jack Del Rio said. "I don't know if I've ever seen anybody else be more excited or pleased to be joining a team."

VIVA LAS VEGAS

The Raiders made their day three picks from their future home in Las Vegas. NFL owners approved the team's move to Sin City for the 2020 season, but the team will likely remain in Oakland for at least the next two years. Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval announced the fourth-round pick in front of the Las Vegas sign with Raiders cheerleaders right behind him. NFL Network then didn't show the fifth-round pick live because anchor Rich Eisen said it was too "harsh" to Oakland fans to show the picks from Las Vegas.

Steelers give offense a jolt in youth-heavy draft

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Ben Roethlisberger got help. Antonio Brown and Le'Veon Bell too. And Greg Warren? Really?

Yes, really.

For a team whose defensive shortcomings were exploited by the New England Patriots in the AFC Championship game, the Pittsburgh Steelers took a bit of a "we'll just outscore them" mentality instead during the NFL Draft.

While Pittsburgh took another shot at finding the replacement for the seemingly ageless linebacker James Harrison when the Steelers grabbed T.J. Watt (younger brother of Houston star J.J. Watt) in the first round, the heart of the AFC North champions' selections veered toward finding depth and talent on an offense that could be among the league's best next fall.

In talented USC wide receiver Juju Smith-Schuster, Pittsburgh thinks it has found the big red zone target to complement Brown, a perennial All-Pro who has found a regular running mate elusive. Markus Wheaton spent most of 2016 hurt then left for Chicago in free agency. Sammie Coates started off then tailed off. Martavis Bryant didn't even play a snap last season while serving a suspension for violating the league's substance abuse policy.

Enter Smith-Schuster, the second-youngest draft pick in Steelers' history (he won't turn 21 until November) who has the size (6-foot-1) Pittsburgh lacked last season while Bryant sat out. Smith-Schuster also has a thirst for blocking.

"The ability to add a young receiver who has big possession type abilities and big red zone abilities was important," general manager Kevin Colbert said. "He adds a size and strength dimension."

MCDONALD'S

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driver's seat was just temporary, as the Braves reclaimed the upper hand at the top of the third, 5-2, thanks to Jeff Borja, Heath Camacho, Desebel, and Sablan's run. The Braves were not done yet, as after their leadoff batter was struck out, the last eight at the top of the order reached and three even scored twice to pad their lead, 16-2.

Now behind by double digits, McDonald's needed to score at least five runs to extend the game. It came up two runs short, as Sablan struck out Joe Deleon Guerrero for the third and final out, leaving one McDonald's runner stranded.

Meanwhile, in the other game in the division, Bank of Saipan had a repeat against the Twins, 12-10.

Bank of Saipan, which downed the Twins in their first meeting (22-17), got off to a good start to make it two in a row against the latter.

A seven-run top of the first gave Bank of Saipan the lead and enough cushion against the several comeback bids of the Twins. Bank of Saipan scored three earned runs in the first inning, two off passed balls and two more from the Twins' miscues.

The Twins then countered with three runs at the bottom of the first and remained in contention when they also hit the board in the next five innings. The Twins threatened Bank of Saipan after their leadoff batter reached off a bunt with only one out. However, the Twins fell short in the end, as Francisco Delos Santos was tagged out going to third and Bank of Saipan pitcher Jay Reyes struck out E.J. Aldan.

SHIRLEY'S

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finding the back of the net in the 18th minute and Sean Gil and Maniago doing the same in the 25th and 27th, respectively.

In the other semis pairing, Costales was also the one who lifted Shirley's to victory against MP United U12 after she nailed a goal four minutes before the game ended.

Shirley's was in Pool B of the 11-team field and was seeded in the group along with TanHoldings U12, Kanoa Girls U15 and MP United U12 for finishing in the Top 2 in their respective age group competition in the NMIFA Youth Spring League.

The eventual FA Cup champion was then paired against TanHoldings Girls U15 for its first match and Shirley's posted a 2-1 victory to set up a semis showdown against MP United U12. Before losing, TanHoldings Girls U15 defeated Kanoa-2 U12 in penalty shootout, 5-3, to advance against Shirley's, while MP United prevailed against Southern United, 2-0, in the opening game in Pool B.

In Pool A, the unseeded Kanoa-1 U12 earned three wins to make it to the finals. It first shut down Paire Girls U15, 3-0 and then topped Kanoa Girls U15, 1-0, to arrange a semis duel against TanHoldings U12. TanHoldings U12, on the other hand, blanked MP United Girls U15, 3-0, to move a win away from marching into the finals. However, TanHoldings bowed to Kanoa-1 U12 and had to settle for the third place honors after edging MP United U12 in the consolation game, 1-0.

KAGMAN

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Lisua top-scored for JSN/Cell Pro with his 16 points, while four of his teammates also recorded double figures. Alex Escano registered 15 markers, Bisana tallied 14, and Teregeyo and Alfred Rosario logged 19 apiece. Preston Basa and Norita combined for 15 more points in JSN/Cell Pro's balance offense.

Ogumoro led all scorers with his 20 points, while Edwin Camacho and Ray Babauta added 12 each.

Meanwhile, in the first game, Arianne Fish Mart also routed Cuadro PS, 107-76.

Arianne Fish Mart made past the century mark and walloped its foe, thanks to Ken Viray's explosive start. The Arianne Fish Mart gunner dropped 21 of his 31 points in the first period to give his team a commanding 33-12 advantage.

Cuadro PS never got out of the deep hole despite neutralizing Viray in the ensuing quarters, as other Arianne Fish Mart players stepped up to ensure the easy win for their squad.

Ramon Mungcal and Elgene Mangali picked up where Viray left off, posting 21 and 17 points, respectively. Art Salazar and Chris Lilles also helped out, contributing 10 points each.

While Arianne Fish Mart had multiple options on offense, it was the opposite for Cuadro PS, as the latter relied heavily on Sid Quan, who scored 21 points.

First Game

Arianne Fish Mart 107 — Viray 31, Mungcal 21, Mangali 17, Salazar 10, Lilles 10, Inos 6, Guiang 4, Flores 2.

Cuadro PS 76 — Quan 21, Estolas 12, Rivera 10, Leyco 8, Ferrer 7, Gontar 4, Velasco 4, Directo 3, Manzano 3.

Scoring by quarters: 33-12, 53-35, 82-56, 107-76.

Second Game

JSN/Cell Pro 91 —Lisua 16, Escano 15, Bisana 14, Teregeyo 10, Al. Rosario 10, Basa 8, Norita 7, Ar. Rosario 2, Alegre 2, De Guzman 2, Andrew 2.

Kagman 72 — Ogumoro 20, Camacho 12, R. Babauta 12, Pangelinan 7, Limes 6, Wayne 4, Leighley 4, Sablan 4, Besong 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-17, 44-31, 65-53, 91-72.

MHS vs GCA in PSS Volleyball League Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Grace Christian Academy's Alan Hinson leaps for a spike during their title game against Marianas High School in the boys division of the 2016-2017 Public School System Volleyball Tournament held last month at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Marianas High School players celebrate after scoring a point against Grace Christian Academy,

Marianas High School's Luther Lizama bumps the ball.

Grace Christian Academy's Alan Hinson spikes the ball against two Marianas High School blockers.

Marianas High School's Troy Ngirarois goes up for a hit.

A Grace Christian Academy player sets up a teammate.

Marianas High School's Ryan Relucio serves.

A Grace Christian Academy player receives a serve from Marianas High School.

Celtics' Thomas expected back for Game 1 vs Wizards

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Sports

Cubs hit three homers to rally past Red Sox

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Shirley's wins first FA Cup

JSN/Cell Pro routs Kagman

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

JSN/Cell Pro saved its best for last to pound Kagman, 91-72, in the second game in the 2017 San Antonio Summer Basketball League last Friday at the San Antonio court.

JSN/Cell Pro scored its most points (26) in the match in the fourth canto to take the 19-point victory against the skidding Kagman.

The JSN/Cell Pro' breakaway in the final frame started at the 7:34 mark after Kagman cut the former's advantage to single digit, 57-65. JSN/Cell Pro launched a pivotal 13-0 run to post its biggest lead in the game, 78-57. Ben Lisua had 5 points in that rally, while Jerome Norita chipped in 4, and Syl Teregeyo, and Celio Bisana added 2 apiece.

A floater from Trevor Ogumoro ended Kagman's four-minute silence. However, that was not enough to spark a late comeback, as JSN/Cell Pro kept going and nailed several easy baskets in the end to keep the double-digit spread.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
JSN/Cell Pro's Syl Teregeyo, left, drives against Kagman's Brandon Babauta during the fourth quarter of their game in the San Antonio summer caging last Friday at the San Antonio court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Three Shirley's Football Club Girls U15 players surround Kanoa-1 FC's Jim Kurt Maniago during the closing minutes of their title game in the FA Boys and Girls Cup 2017 held last Saturday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Finally, Shirley's Football Club will have its name on display in the perpetual trophy after ruling the FA Boys and Girls Cup 2017 held last Saturday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

Shirley's FC Girls U15 gave the club its first FA Cup (for boys U12 and girls U15 age group) following a 1-0 triumph over Kanoa FC-1 U12 in the championship game of the single-elimination tournament. With the title victory, Shirley's joins MP United U12 (2011, 2013, and 2016 winner), Matansa U12 (2012), Paire U12 (2014), and Matansa U15 Girls (2015) in the champions circle.

Katrina Costales scored the winning goal for Shirley's just six minutes before the 30-minute match wrapped up. Credit half of the goal to Jerlyn Castillo, who made the pass. Castillo attacked and found herself surrounded by Kanoa FC-1 U12 defenders at the center of the box. With Kanoa players ganging up on her, she swung the ball to her right with the unguarded Costales waiting and then knocking in the cross to draw first blood.

Now down with the clock ticking, Kanoa FC-1 U12 was pressured to go all out on offense and had a couple of chances to knot the count. The closest one came with about two minutes left in the game when Jim Kurt Maniago broke away from two Shirley's defenders and unloaded a shot, which he missed as the ball went out wide to the right.

It was a sorry loss for Kanoa FC-1 U12, which came from an impressive 4-0 victory against co-ed U12 champion TanHoldings FC in the semifinals. Four different players hit the board for Kanoa FC-1 U12 in the semis with Markus Toves giving the squad its first goal just two minutes into the game. Kanoa FC-1 U12's last three goals were then made in the second half with Andrew Sablan

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Fourth-inning surge lifts Braves past McDonald's

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Braves took a short route to victory against McDonald's, 16-5, in the Major division game in the 2017 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

The Braves earned the win via 10-run mercy rule after only four innings as they scored 11 runs at the top of the fourth.

Patrick Celis led the Braves' surge in the fourth inning, as he went 2-for-2 at bat, scored two runs, and made three RBIs. Jylon Sablan and Taisei Desebel added two runs apiece with the former also posting one RBI.

Before their run rush at the top of the fourth, the Braves were only ahead by 3, 5-2, after three complete innings. Desebel gave the Braves their first run off a McDonald's error in the opening inning. The Braves then were scoreless at the top of the second, while Ton Acosta and L.J. Reyes tallied one RBI each at the bottom to put McDonald's on top.

However, McDonald's stay in the

See MCDONALD'S on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Braves runner slides home during their game against McDonald's in the first round of the Major division of the 2017 Saipan Little League Baseball at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.